

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, August 1, 2013

BIPARTISAN BLUE MOON



Rep. Cathy McMorris (R-Wash.), flanked by Reps. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), left, and John Kline (R-Minn.), speaks at a news conference after the House passed a student loan bill, in Washington, July 31, 2013. The legislation, which created a new set of rates for federal student loans, is entwined with many of the issues that often divide Republicans and Democrats.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

Unusual Feat In Congress: Student Loan Bill Breezes On

JEREMY W. PETERS

ASHLEY PARKER

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WASHINGTON - Something pretty rare happened in Congress on Wednesday: It approved and sent to President Barack Obama a major piece of public policy by an overwhelming bipartisan margin.

The feat was even more notable because the legislation, which created a new set of rates for federal student loans, is entwined with many of the issues that often divide Republicans and Democrats: the economy, the financial markets and the government's role

in lending.

It passed by a vote of 392-31 in the House.

Rep. Luke Messer, R-Ind., praised the student loan deal as a triumph of policy and politics.

"It's a great victory for taxpayers, because taxpayers won't be forced to subsidize student loan rates that are arbitrarily set by politicians," Messer said.

"This, I hope, opens the door to potential compromises on some of the other big issues that we have before us that we have to deal with in the next several months."

"This proves Washington

can work."

Despite such optimism, lawmakers had little choice but to find a path to a deal. Student loan rates doubled on July 1 because Congress could not come up with a plan to replace student lending laws that had expired.

Failing to act on a compromise before the end of this week would have left legislators heading home for a monthlong recess to face constituents already disillusioned over dysfunction and inaction in the Capitol. None wanted to face criticism that they were so inept that they could not

protect middle-class families from paying double what they used to pay to borrow money for college. Yet the vote, as encouraging as it was on the surface, raised the question of why Congress cannot find consensus on big issues more often.

An overhaul of the nation's immigration laws, which passed the Senate in June, is stymied as House Republicans struggle to come up with a plan that unites the disparate views in their caucus.

Although some believe that revamping the immigration system is crucial to the fu-

ture of their party, others denounce any pathway to citizenship for the 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the country as amnesty.

Efforts to overhaul the tax code seem similarly stuck as Democrats demand more revenue, an idea that Republicans portray as unacceptable.

And the parties have found even less common ground on the budget, as many conservatives insist that any new spending resolution not include financing for Obama's health care law.

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Egypt: Camps ordered cleared, protesters dig in

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Protesters holding sticks and wearing helmets and makeshift body armor stand behind mounds of sandbags, tires and brick walls. They change guards every two hours to ensure they stay alert.

With Egypt's military-backed government signaling a crackdown is imminent, supporters of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi are taking no chances with security at their two protest camps in Cairo.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet ordered the police to break up the sit-ins, saying

another massacre."

"The police state is getting ready to commit more massacres against the innocent, unarmed civilians holding sit-ins for the sake of legitimacy," he said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf appealed to the military-led government to avoid violence. "We have continued to urge the interim government officials and security forces to respect the right of peaceful assembly," she said. "That obviously includes sit-ins." Organizers are portraying the sit-ins outside the Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque in eastern Cairo and a smaller one across

intersection facing the mosque.

Authorities have already cracked down on the organization, arresting Morsi and other senior leaders. On Wednesday, Egyptian prosecutors referred three top leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood to trial for allegedly inciting the killing of at least eight protesters last month outside the group's Cairo headquarters.

At least six makeshift gates have been erected as the sole entry points to the Rabaah encampment, with dozens of protesters standing guard, checking IDs, searching bags and patting down visitors.

Once through the gates,



Supporters of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi take photographs with their phones as they protest outside Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque, where they have installed a camp and hold daily rallies at Nasr City, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Egypt's military-backed government has ordered the police to break up the sit-in protests by supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, saying they pose an "unacceptable threat" to national security.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

they pose an "unacceptable threat" to national security.

Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim said the order will be carried out in gradual steps according to instructions from prosecutors. "I hope they resort to reason" and leave without authorities having to move in, he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Ahmed Sobae, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Freedom and Justice party, derided the Cabinet decision as "paving the way for

the city near Cairo University's main campus as evidence of an enduring support base for Morsi's once-dominant Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has so far refused to cooperate with the country's interim leaders, whom it calls "traitors," or participate in a military-backed fast-track transition plan to return to a democratically elected government by early next year. Instead it tries to keep thousands of supporters camped out in tents decorated with photos of Morsi, occupying a cross-shaped

posters with photos of Morsi and slogans calling him the "legitimate president" are plastered on tents, corners and light poles while giant loudspeakers play some of his fiery speeches and women chant "Morsi is my president."

The overwhelming majority of the protesters echo the demands of the Brotherhood leaders still free: Reinstate Morsi, reverse all measures taken by the military, including the suspension of the disputed constitution and the disbanding of the Islamist-controlled legislature. □

Snowden's dad thankful to Putin

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The father of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden told Russian television that he is grateful to President Vladimir Putin and his government for protecting his son.

Speaking to the state-owned Rossiya 24 channel in footage broadcast Wednesday, Lon Snowden of Allentown, Pennsylvania, thanked the Kremlin for the "courage" shown in keeping his son safe. Addressing his son, Lon Snowden said that "your family is well and we love you." He added that "I hope to see you soon, but most of all I want you to be safe."

The younger Snowden has been stuck in the transit zone of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport since arriving from Hong Kong on June 23. Russia is considering his request for temporary asylum, which he submitted on July 16.

Putin has warned that Snowden could be granted asylum on condition he agrees not to hurt U.S. interests — implying that the American would have to stop leaking material on Washington's spying efforts.

Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, has said the fugitive told him he could meet that demand. The Guardian newspaper on Wednesday published a new report on U.S. intelligence-gathering based on information from Snowden, but Kucherena said the material was provided before Snowden promised to stop leaking.

"He warned me that he had already sent to the press an array of revealing information and secret documents and, unfortunately, could not stop its publication," Kucherena was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Snowden, who revealed details of a U.S. intelligence program to monitor Internet activity, has received offers of asylum from Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia. However, the logistics of reaching any of those

countries are complicated because his U.S. passport has been revoked.

Snowden would need the country he wants to reach to issue him travel docu-



Lon Snowden, the father of Edward Snowden speaks on Rossiya 24 channel in Washington, DC.

(AP Photo/Rossiya 24)

ments and he would have to find a way to get there. The only direct commercial flight to the region, one that goes to Havana, Cuba, flies over Europe and the U.S., which could cause complications. Some European countries refused to allow Bolivian President Evo Morales to fly through their airspace on his way home from Moscow earlier this month due to suspicions Snowden was on his plane.

The elder Snowden said that, considering those issues, his son's best option may be to stay in Russia.

"If it were me, I would stay in Russia and that's what I hope my son will do," he said, adding that he hopes to be able to visit him in Moscow. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters that she had not seen the interview of the elder Snowden and would not comment on it.

"I would say what we've said repeatedly, that we are working through law enforcement channels with the Russian government to make the point that Mr. Snowden is wanted on serious felony charges and needs to be returned to the United States," she said. Kucherena told the Vesti-FM radio station on Wednesday that he is arranging for Snowden's father to visit Russia. □

House approves tough new Iran sanctions on oil

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved tough new sanctions on Iran's oil sector and other industries. The Obama administration fears the measures could undercut the Islamic republic's incoming, more moderate president ahead of new nuclear negotiations. No date has been set for such talks, which would include other world powers Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. The bill makes no mention of Hasan Rouhani's recent win or his pledge to improve Iran's relations with the world. He will assume office this weekend.

The bill adopted Wednesday blacklists any business in Iran's mining and construction sectors and commits the United States to the goal of ending all Iranian oil sales worldwide by 2015.

Petroleum sales are the biggest source of money for Iran's nuclear program.

Washington fears Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Tehran says its program is for energy and research purposes. The bill builds on U.S. penalties that went into effect last year that have cut Iran's petroleum exports in half and hurt its economy. Still, China, India and several other Asian nations continue to buy billions of dollars of Iranian oil each month. That provides Tehran with much of the money it spends on its weapons and nuclear programs. President Barack Obama and his national security team are gauging whether Rouhani is willing to slow some of his country's uranium enrichment activity. The administration wants to give him a chance to make concessions before Iran reaches nuclear weapons capacity. Obama has given Iran until sometime next year to prove that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful energy and research purposes. He prefers diplomacy to the alternative of a military intervention by the U.S. or Israel, which sees an Iranian atomic arsenal as a threat to its existence. □

Senate confirms B. Todd Jones to head BATF

By ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted in dramatic fashion Wednesday to approve one of President Barack Obama's nominees. For Democrats to prevail, all it took was a last-ditch vote switch by one senator, a flight back from North Dakota by another and an afternoon roll call that stretched into the evening.

Five hours after the balloting started, the Senate voted to end Republican delaying tactics against B. Todd Jones, Obama's pick to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It then voted in a comparatively instantaneous 29 minutes for his final confirmation, 53-42.

A defeat would have been a setback for Obama, who is trying to plug gaps in his second-term administration's lineup, and dealt a blow to the recent cooperation between the two parties over allowing votes on the president's nominees.

The lengthy roll call and the theatrics accompanying it nearly obscured that Jones' approval marked a rare congressional victory for gun-control forces. His confirmation came three months after the Senate rejected Obama's drive to expand background checks for firearms buyers. Obama nominated Jones weeks after the December massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., that killed 20 first-graders and six staffers. Jones, a former Marine, has been acting ATF director since 2011.

Gun control advocates backed Jones' nomination, saying he would strengthen an agency long weakened by congressionally imposed restraints. With a national registry of gun owners forbidden by federal law, authorities face constraints when they want to trace firearms used in crimes.

ki after she at first voted to support her party's delaying tactics.

As the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and other Democrats tried persuading her to switch, Republican senators joined the group, urging her not to change. More than a dozen lawmakers spent



B. Todd Jones of Minnesota, President Barack Obama's nominee for director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate voted Wednesday to approve Jones to head the BATF.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

For most of Wednesday afternoon, the Senate idled in neutral waiting for Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., to fly back from her home state, where aides said she had taken ill. She then cast the 60th vote needed to end a GOP procedural blockade aimed at derailing Jones' nomination.

But to get the 59th vote, Democrats earlier had to persuade Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, to switch her initial vote.

In a prolonged spectacle played out largely in full view on the Senate floor, Democratic senators swarmed around Murkows-

nearly an hour imploring Murkowski, first on the Senate floor and then in a private cloakroom.

She finally emerged from cloakroom and switched her vote.

She said in a written statement that she switched her vote after learning that Jones no longer was under investigation, as opponents had said he was, for his performance as U.S. attorney for Minnesota. She later voted against his confirmation.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., who was in the middle of the crowd surrounding Murkowski, said Dem-

ocrats also argued that blocking a vote on Jones "would have disrupted the relative and recent comity in the Senate."

With an autumn of fights over the budget and other issues coming up, "The last thing we want to do is leave with some radioactive blowup," Klobuchar said. Congress is due to leave for a five-week summer recess this weekend. Most Senate roll calls take about 20 minutes.

The Senate Historian's Office said that while it lacked exhaustive data on the longest-lasting Senate roll calls, the chamber's 2009 vote on Obama's economic stimulus package lasted five hours and 15 minutes. It ended when Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, returned from a family funeral in Ohio to vote.

Many congressional Republicans have been harshly critical of the ATF, especially for its fumbled Fast and Furious Operation aimed at gun-smuggling across the Southwest border. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and others have also complained that Jones' nomination should not move forward because of whistle-blower complaints against Jones involving his work as U.S. attorney for Minnesota.

Five other Republicans also voted Wednesday to end the blockade against Jones.

They included Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., who came under pressure at home from gun control supporters after she opposed wider background checks in April. Ayotte, like Murkowski, voted against Jones' confirmation. □

Agency won't investigate shooting of Chechen in US

MIAMI (AP) — State investigators in Florida have rejected a request for an independent investigation of the fatal shooting of a Chechen man while he was being questioned about his ties to one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement declined the

request by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida to look into the death of Ibragim Todashev.

Todashev was killed in May while being questioned by FBI agents and others. Officials originally said Todashev lunged at an FBI agent with a knife.

They later said it was no longer clear what hap-

pened.

Tuesday's letter said it would be inappropriate for the agency to intervene.

ACLU of Florida director Howard Simon said he found the response extremely disappointing.

"Secrecy fosters suspicion, and the people of Florida deserve better than to be left without an explana-

tion from their government about what led to a person being shot to death," Simon said in a news release.

"This means it is more likely that the family of Ibragim Todashev will have to file a lawsuit in order to get answers about how their son died."

An investigation is being led by the FBI. □

US defends NSA powers; plans changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's national security team acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that it can read and store the phone records of millions of Americans when investigating one suspected terrorist.

The testimony to Congress came as concerns remain high over citizens' privacy after details of the once-secretive programs were leaked in recent weeks. Obama invited a bipartisan group of lawmakers to the White House on Thursday to discuss the National Security Agency surveillance

phone records and also at the records of everyone he calls, everyone who calls those people — and everyone who calls those people.

If the average person called 40 unique people, the analysis would allow the government to mine the records of 2.5 million Americans when investigating one suspected terrorist.

The NSA has said it conducted 300 searches of its telephone database last year. The analysis of those searches could mean scrutinizing the phone records of tens or even hundreds of

its sweeping surveillance powers are inevitable.

This national debate of privacy versus national security began when former government systems analyst Edward Snowden leaked classified documents exposing NSA programs that store years of phone records on every American. That revelation prompted the most significant reconsideration yet of the vast surveillance powers Congress granted the president after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The administration intended to keep the telephone program a secret forever,



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., right, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 31, 2013, as the panel questioned top Obama administration officials about the National Security Agency's surveillance programs for the first time since the House narrowly rejected a proposal last week to effectively shut down the NSA's secret collection of hundreds of millions of Americans' phone records.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

programs.

Since it was revealed that the NSA puts the phone records of every American into a database, the Obama administration has said such records are rarely searched.

When they are, officials target only suspected international terrorists.

But testimony to Congress showed how easy it is for the government to analyze the calling patterns of Americans with no connection to terrorism.

It hinges on what's known as "hop" or "chain" analysis. When the NSA identifies a suspect, it can look at his

millions of people.

"When you look at the reach of this program, it envelopes a substantial number of Americans," said Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate.

Such reassurances have done little to quiet the sharp criticism from both top political parties over the once-secret surveillance program. Last week saw a close vote in the House of Representatives on a measure that tried to kill the phone surveillance program.

On Wednesday, the administration acknowledged some limitations to

and few in Congress had shown any interest in limiting it.

Snowden's leaks abruptly changed that.

The telephone program is authorized under a provision of the USA Patriot Act, which Congress hurriedly passed after the 2001 attacks against the U.S.

The Obama administration says phone records are the only records being collected in bulk under that law, but it has left open the ability to create similar databases of people's credit card transactions, hotel records and Internet searches. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: Can you tell me about the mission of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition? Did Jesse Jackson start it, and how long has it been in existence?

-- Sherrill Lang, Tyrone, Ga.

A: The coalition was formed by Jackson in 1996 as a "multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international membership organization fighting for social change," according to its website (rainbowpush.org). Jackson merged People United to Serve Humanity (PUSH, founded in 1971) and the Rainbow Coalition (1984) to form the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

Q: When Pope John Paul II is made a saint, will he be St. Karol, using his birth name? Have any other popes been sainted?

-- Dick Donovan, Hiram, Ga.

A: Pope John Paul II will be known as St. John Paul II, not by his birth name of Karol Jozef Wojtyla, Nicole Winfield, who covers The Vatican for The Associated Press, told Q-and-A on the News in an email. John Paul II was pope from 1978-2005. Pope John XXIII, who was pope from 1958-63, also will be canonized, joining 78 other popes who have become saints. The last was St. Pius X, who was canonized in 1954, 40 years after his death. Fifty-two of the first 54 popes became saints.

Q: Why is Jay Leno leaving as host of "The Tonight Show?" Why is the show moving to New York rather than staying in California? How much does Leno make per year on the show?

-- Frank Williams, Lavonia, Ga.

A: Jimmy Fallon, host of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," will take over as host of "The Tonight Show" next spring, replacing Leno. It has been reported that NBC is going for a younger host in Fallon, who is 38 years old. Leno is 62 and has been host of "The Tonight Show" for most of the past 21 years. Leno will receive \$15 million, which is his yearly salary, for leaving the show several months before his contract expires. Leno had been making about \$30 million a year before signing a deal to take a 50 percent cut last August.

Fallon hosts his current show from New York and "The Tonight Show" will move back to NBC's headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. "The Tonight Show" originated in New York in 1954 and was there until host Johnny Carson moved it to Burbank, Calif., in 1972. Carson hosted the show in New York for 10 years before moving it to California.

Q: How far down the British royal line do you have to go to find a person who has a real job and goes to work every day?

-- Jimmy Sledge, Jonesboro, Ga.

A: Charles, Queen Elizabeth II's oldest son, was a naval officer, continuing a family tradition; his great-grandfathers, a grandfather and his father also served. He was a helicopter pilot and commanded a ship in the Royal Navy. His two sons -- William and Harry -- are helicopter pilots and have military careers, with Harry serving time in Afghanistan. Prince Andrew, one of Charles' younger brothers, was a helicopter pilot who saw action in the Falklands War in 1982. Prince Edward, another brother, has worked in theater and TV, and formed a production company in 1993. Peter Phillips, the queen's oldest grandson, has worked for Jaguar and Royal Bank of Scotland, and currently is with Sports & Entertainment Limited. Members of the immediate royal family also have official duties, working with charitable organizations and making public appearances. □

Unusual Feat In Congress: Student Loan Bill Breezes On

Continued from Front

"They don't trust each other," said Steve LaTourette, a former Republican congressman from Ohio and a close ally of Speaker John A. Boehner who decided to retire last year in large part because of his frustration with the dynamics on Capitol Hill. "Boehner doesn't trust the president. The president doesn't trust Boehner. And until they do trust each other, you're not going to see anything big getting done."

Passage of the student loan bill came the same day that House Republican leaders were forced to abruptly pull from the floor a \$44.1 billion spending bill on transportation and housing because of a lack of votes. The bill had steep cuts that Republican moderates opposed. Community development block grants would have been cut in the coming fiscal year to \$1.6 billion from \$3.3 billion, a level lower than when the program began under President

Gerald Ford. The House passed a student loan plan in May. But Senate Democrats balked, saying that the borrowing rates it set were too high and would leave students and their families with too little protection from inflation and fluctuations in the financial markets. Then a coalition of liberal Democrats resisted any plan that linked rates to the financial markets, keeping a deal at bay for weeks.

Under the old federal student loan program, borrowers were offered a fixed rate. Under the new rate structure, which still drew opposition from nearly one-third of Senate Democrats when it passed last week, loans to undergraduates and graduate students, along with parents in the PLUS program, would be subject to a fixed rate plus the yield on the 10-year Treasury note.

Rates for loans taken out after July 1 of this year would be 3.9 percent for undergraduates, 5.4 percent for graduate students and 6.4 percent for those

receiving PLUS loans. The rates are fixed over the life of the loan but would change for new borrowers each year.

fluctuated with the markets, Congress set a cap on all loans: 8.25 percent for undergraduates, 9.5 for graduate students and

said that while she was "disappointed it took as long as it did for us to get to this place on student loans," she hoped that the



Prospective students tour Georgetown University's campus in Washington. The House easily gave its stamp of approval to the bipartisan Senate compromise that links college students' interest rates to the financial markets and offer borrowers lower rates this fall.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

In a compromise that pleased many Democrats who had initially been wary of using a rate that was subject to inflation and

10.5 for PLUS recipients. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, the chairwoman of the House Republican Conference,

legislation was a harbinger. "I hope this is setting the stage for more bipartisanship and success on other issues," she said. □

Obama defends Summers from criticism within Democrat camp

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama pushed back Wednesday against liberal Democrats who are urging him not to pick Lawrence Summers to run the Federal Reserve.

Obama's pending decision has attracted widespread attention and sparked substantial controversy, in part because of the major role the Fed chairman will play in managing an economy still struggling to recover from the recession.

In a closed-door session with House Democrats, Obama offered what participants in the meeting described as a keen defense of Summers after being pressed by Rep. Ed Perlmutter about his controversial consideration of Summers to replace the Fed's outgoing chairman, Ben Bernanke. The defense continued at the White House, where press secretary Jay Carney said Summers had "stood shoulder to shoulder" with Obama during an economic crisis. □

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Manning defense tries to reduce sentence



A supporter of Army Pfc. Bradley Manning carries a sign while on a bicycle during a nighttime demonstration in front of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Maryland

(AP) — The sentencing for U.S. soldier Bradley Manning began Wednesday, and a judge will decide whether he will spend the rest of his life in prison. For the first time, testimony is being allowed about the actual damage the leaks caused.

Manning faces up to 136 years in prison for the biggest leak of government secrets in U.S. history. He admits giving hundreds of thousands of classified documents to the anti-secrecy-site WikiLeaks. He says he did it to expose U.S. military "bloodlust" and diplomatic deceitfulness, but he did not believe his

actions would harm the country.

The 25-year-old has been called both a whistleblower and a traitor, and his case has been watched worldwide.

He didn't testify during the trial, but he could take the stand during the sentencing phase.

The former intelligence analyst was convicted of 20 of 22 charges, but he was found not guilty of aiding the enemy, which alone could have meant life in prison without parole. Prosecutors failed to prove Manning had "general evil intent."

His defense lawyers now have asked the military judge to merge two of his espionage convictions

and two of his theft convictions. If the judge agrees, he would face up to 116 years in prison.

Military prosecutors said they would call as many as 20 witnesses for the sentencing phase, including experts on counterintelligence, strategic planning and terrorism.

The judge prohibited both sides from presenting evidence during trial about any actual damage the leaks caused to national security and troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, but lawyers can bring that up at sentencing. Retired Army Brig. Gen. Robert Carr testified Wednesday the classified documents Manning disclosed fractured U.S. military relationships with foreign governments and Afghan villagers.

Carr headed a Defense Department task force that assessed the fallout from the leaks. He said the material identified hundreds of Afghan villagers by name, causing some of them to stop helping U.S. forces.

The leaks embarrassed the U.S. and its allies. U.S. officials warned of dire consequences immediately after the first disclosures in July 2010, but a Defense Department review later suggested those fears might have been too dramatic. □

Zimmerman had handgun during recent traffic stop

FORNEY, Texas (AP) — Police in Texas say they stopped George Zimmerman for speeding.

Zimmerman was recently acquitted of murder in the fatal shooting of unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin, and the verdict led to national protests over race and self-defense gun laws. Police say Zimmerman was stopped Sunday. A police dashcam video released Wednesday shows an officer recognizing him. The officer instructed Zimmer-

glove compartment. Don't play with your firearm."

It was not clear whether Zimmerman actually had a gun. His gun from the shooting remains in the custody of the federal government, which is looking into a possible civil rights case.

The traffic stop was first reported by TMZ. Shawn Vincent, a spokesman for Zimmerman's legal team, would not discuss what Zimmerman was doing in Texas or say anything about his current location,



In this image taken from dashcam video provided by the City of Forney Police Department, a police officer speaks with George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer acquitted by a Florida jury of charges in the fatal shooting of a black teenager, after he was pulled over for speeding along U.S. 80, about 20 miles east of Dallas. Zimmerman was released with a warning.

(AP Photo/City of Forney PD)

man to slow down and released him with a warning. City Manager Brian Brooks says police records don't show how fast Zimmerman was driving.

A spokesman for Zimmerman's legal team says he's baffled that a traffic stop would become national news.

The officer, who was not identified, reassures Zimmerman. "Just take it easy. Go ahead and shut your

citing safety concerns. Protests over the case continue. □



FBI:

Man at theater had armor, gun, CIA ID

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Michigan (AP) — The FBI says a man has been arrested at a Michigan movie theater wearing body armor and carrying a gun. Cassidy Delavergne wasn't charged with crimes related to the gun or 34 rounds of ammunition. But he was charged Wednesday with possessing a phony Central

Intelligence Agency identification card.

FBI spokesman Simon Shaykhet says police were called to the Trillium Theater in Grand Blanc Township near Flint on Tuesday night after someone noticed the vest and gun.

Delavergne was watching a movie when police arrived.

Shaykhet declined to say whether agents believe Delavergne planned to use his handgun.

A court filing says Delavergne told an agent he displayed the phony ID to minimize concerns about his gun. Delavergne claimed to have a concealed weapon permit.

He's in custody. □

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C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew from April through June at an annual rate of 1.7 percent — a sluggish pace but stronger than in the previous quarter. Businesses spent more, and the federal government cut less, offsetting weaker spending by consumers.

The government on Wednesday sharply revised down its estimate of growth in the January-March quarter to a 1.1 percent annual rate from a previously estimated 1.8 percent rate.

Though growth remains weak, the pickup last quarter supports forecasts that the economy will accelerate the rest of the year. Economists think businesses will step up investment, job growth will fuel more consumer spending and the drag from government cuts will fade. If so, the Federal Reserve could scale back its stimulus later this year. The April-June growth figure indicates that "the recovery is gaining momentum," Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

Optimism about the second half of the year, along with higher corporate earnings, helped fuel a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average rose nearly 100 points in late-morning trading.

During the April-June quarter, businesses increased their spending 4.6 percent after cutting by the same amount in the January-March period. And spending on home construction grew 13.4 percent, in line with the previous quarter. □

US Financial Front:

Fed's dimmer outlook could mean longer bond buying

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve stopped short of signaling any timetable Wednesday for slowing its bond buying.

Instead, it dropped hints that it might need to maintain its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases, which have helped keep long-term borrowing rates ultra-low.

In a statement after a two-day policy meeting the Fed:

- Slightly downgraded its assessment of economic growth from "moderate" to "modest."

- Noted for the first time that mortgage rates, which have fueled home sales, "have risen somewhat" from record lows.

- Pointed out that inflation has fallen "persistently below" its 2 percent target. The Fed's bond purchases could help stop inflation from falling so low that it could pose a threat to the economy.

Taken together, such factors could cause the Fed to delay any pullback in its bond buying beyond September. September is when many economists have thought the Fed would start to slow its purchases because of a strengthening economy.

"I don't think the Fed will be ready" to slow its bond purchases in September, said Brian Bethune, an economics professor at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. "Not only is growth running below their target, but inflation is below where they would like it to be."

The Fed does expect growth to pick up in the second half of the year. But it doesn't appear ready to assume it will.

Investors offered a muted reaction to the Fed's policy statement. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 73 points an hour after the statement was released at 2 p.m. (1800 GMT). It had been up 13 points moments before. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.62

percent annual rate from April through June. The pace was an improvement from than the previous two quarters, which were revised lower. Still, growth remains sluggish and has been below 2 percent for three straight quarters. Most economists, including those at the Fed, expect



A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the rate decision by the Federal Reserve, as specialist Jeffrey Berger works at his post, Wednesday, July 31, 2013. The Federal Reserve says the U.S. economy is growing modestly, a downgrade from its June assessment.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

percent from 2.66 percent just before the announcement.

In its statement, the Fed said it will keep buying \$85 billion a month in bonds to help lower long-term interest rates. And it says it plans to hold its key short-term rate at a record low near zero at least as long as the unemployment rate stays above 6.5 percent and the inflation outlook remains mild.

Stronger job growth has fueled speculation that the Fed could start reducing

Fed's sometimes arcane language, "moderate" is stronger than "modest."

Chairman Ben Bernanke said after the June meeting that the Fed could slow the bond purchases later this year if the economy and job market continued to strengthen.

But after Wednesday's meeting, the Fed described the economy as expanding only at a "modest pace."

Earlier Wednesday, the government said the economy grew at a subpar 1.7

growth will strengthen in the second half of the year. That's because they believe businesses will spend more, stronger job growth will fuel more consumer spending and government spending cuts will weigh less on overall growth.

Job growth has averaged 202,000 a month since January, up from 180,000 a month in the last six months of 2012. That makes Friday's July employment report even more critical to the Fed's assessment of the economy. □

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Ruling expected soon in Berlusconi tax fraud case

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi's lawyers made a final attempt Wednesday to overturn a tax fraud conviction that threatens to derail the ex-premier's two-decade old political career banning him from holding public office, urging Italy's highest court to either acquit the business mogul or at least order a fresh trial in the long-running case stemming from film rights acquisitions in his media empire.

Lawyers for Berlusconi and three other defendants wrapped up eight hours of arguments before the Court of Cassation before presiding judge Antonio Esposito called it a day. Esposito announced that the five-member panel will begin deliberations at noon (1000 GMT) Thursday after a night's rest, given the "importance" of the case.



Vittorio Colavitti walks with a poster reading "Mercy for Berlusconi and Italians now or never" outside Italy's highest court where Berlusconi's case on tax fraud will be decided, in Rome, Wednesday, July 31, 2013. A decision should come Thursday.

(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

If the conviction sticks, the ruling could weaken the fragile government of Premier Enrico Letta, which is

struggling to pass measures to help Italy out of recession. Berlusconi's conservatives are Letta's main co-

alition partner, and there are fears that some in the premier's own squabbling center-left party could ob-

ject to having to depend on a ruling alliance whose leader would be criminally disgraced if the conviction is upheld upon final appeal.

Berlusconi has urged his supporters not to let the ruling interfere with the government, but analysts said the situation is volatile. Center-right lawmakers recently slowed work in Parliament to protest the high court's decision to take the case in July instead of the fall. Berlusconi and three others were convicted in October of tax fraud in the purchase of TV rights for Berlusconi's Mediaset network. Berlusconi was sentenced to four years in prison with a five-year ban on public office, which was confirmed on appeal earlier this year.

Lawyer Franco Coppi repeatedly cited Berlusconi's contention that he no longer was involved in the business dealings of his media empire after he entered politics 20 years ago — including when he was premier during the years covered by the alleged fraud. The Cassation judges must decide "is it true or not that Berlusconi has dedicated himself full-time to politics" in the years covered by the alleged tax fraud that haven't yet expired due to statute of limitations, Coppi said.

"Naturally, we are asking annulment" of the conviction, Coppi told the court. But then he essentially invited the court to consider a kind of Plan B, saying that if they weren't convinced of Berlusconi's innocence, they should order a new trial. □

Syrian opposition: No talks for time being

BARBARA SURK

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The main Western-backed Syrian opposition will not take part in any peace negotiations with the government until rebels gain the upper hand on the battlefield again, the group's chief said Wednesday.

The statement reflected the new reality on the ground, where the forces of President Bashar Assad have been making significant gains against the rebels on several key fronts.

Ahmad al-Jarba, leader of the Syrian National Coalition, said rebels were re-

grouping after a series of setbacks and predicted they would regain ground in the coming "few weeks." "We will not go to any negotiations until the Free Army and revolutionary forces are strong on the ground and cohesive as they were eight months ago," he said in comments made to the state-run Qatari news agency while on a visit to Doha.

The United States, which supports the opposition, and Russia, which backs the Assad government, are trying to convene a conference in Geneva to get both sides to implement a

peace plan adopted in the Swiss city a year ago. It calls for the establishment of a transitional governing body vested with full executive powers.

Last week, al-Jarba told the U.N. Security Council that his group is ready to attend a peace conference if the Syrian government makes a commitment to implement a plan that requires it to hand over power to a transitional government. But in his comments Wednesday, he reversed that position, saying the Coalition would not take part before the situation on the ground changes in fa-

vor of the rebels. Syrian opposition figures have given mixed signal when it comes to negotiating with Assad's regime, with various leaders often making contradictory statements.

Al-Jarba's comments coincided with a new assault by Syrian government forces to regain control of a northern village that was the site of an alleged chemical weapons attack earlier this year, activists said. The push on Khan al-Assal, a village on the southwestern outskirts of the embattled city of Aleppo, comes more than a week after it was captured by the rebels. □



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Eurozone jobless rate down for first time in 2 years

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Further evidence emerged Wednesday that the eurozone economy is on the mend after struggling with a recession that's seen unemployment edge toward the 20 million mark.

Figures from Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, showed that the number of unemployed across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro fell by 24,000 in June to 19.27 million. That's the first fall since April 2011 and adds to the weight of recent evidence that suggests the recession in the eurozone has — or is about to — come to an end.

"While the latest data are far from suggesting a quick turnaround, the stabilization provides some relief from the relentless rise in the number of unemployed to date," said Timo del Carpio, European economist at RBC Capital Markets.

The eurozone's economy has been shrinking since the last quarter of 2011 as a raging debt crisis prompted many countries to pursue tough austerity policies that weighed on economic activity and confidence. However, many analysts think figures next month will show the region may have eked out modest growth during the second quarter, thanks mainly to a rebound in Germany, Europe's biggest economy.

On top of that, other countries' output — even for those at the forefront of Europe's debt crisis — do not appear to be contracting on such a large scale as earlier on in the year.

That's partly due to a combination of the scale of spending cuts and tax increases in certain countries easing in the last few

months and a calmer backdrop in financial markets. Another reduction in the European Central Bank's main interest rate to the record low of 0.5 percent has also helped to shore up economic activity.

Figures this week showed that the Spanish recession nearly ended in the second quarter while there are hopes that even Greece — the epicenter of the region's debt woes — may start growing again at the end of this year following a recession that's wiped out around a fifth of the country's output.

Since unemployment started rising again over two years ago, nearly 4 million people have lost their jobs in the eurozone and that's lifted the overall unemployment rate to 12.1 percent from around the 10 percent mark. That provides a stark

contrast to the U.S., where the jobless rate has steadily fallen to 7.6 percent.

One of the most damaging

of the young. In June, 3.53 million people aged under 25 were unemployed in the eurozone. The unem-

percent.

"A situation in which almost a quarter of young people who are available for work cannot find a job is storing up significant social and economic problems for the future," said Andrea Broughton, Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Employment Studies.

Overall, the eurozone's unemployment rate was also lower than expected — though at a record high. Wednesday's figures are only one month but they do provide some hope that there is now light at the end of the tunnel.

In Spain, for example, the number of unemployed fell to 5.96 million from the previous month's 6 million and that pulled the jobless rate down to 26.3 percent from 26.4 percent. □



A protester sits on the ground next to riot police officers after occupying a bank as part of a protest to support a neighbor who is facing an eviction process in Barcelona, Spain. The Spanish banner read: "I get paralyzed living in Memocracia."

(AP Photo/Paco Serinelli)

effects of the eurozone's return to recession has been an inexorable rise in unemployment particularly

among the region's young rose slightly between May and June from 23.8 percent to 23.9

Al-Qaida: We will try to free Guantanamo inmates

BAGHDAD (AP) — Al-Qaida's leader said in remarks posted Wednesday that a prisoners' hunger strike in Guantanamo Bay has revealed the "odious" face of America and claims that the terror network will spare no effort to free prisoners held at the U.S. military-run detention center in Cuba. Ayman al-Zawahri spoke in a 22-minute audio message posted on the Internet. "The strike by our brothers in Guantanamo reveals the real odious and ugly face of America," he said. Some of the 166 prisoners there began a hunger strike earlier this year to protest conditions and their indefinite confinement.

"We pledge God that we will spare no efforts to set them free along with all our prisoners, on top of them Omar Abdel Rahman, Aaf-

ia Siddiqui, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and every oppressed Muslim everywhere," he said.

Militants have in the past tried to free Abdel Rahman, a blind Egyptian sheik convicted of plotting to blow up New York City landmarks, and Siddiqui, a Pakistani scientist convicted of shooting at two U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, by offering to free hostages in exchange.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the admitted mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, is at Guantanamo. The other two are at civilian prisons in the United States.

The message's authenticity could not be independently confirmed but the message was posted on a militant website commonly used by al-Qaida.

Al-Zawahri's last message,

urging Sunni Muslims to devote their lives, money and expertise to battling Syria's President Bashar Assad,

was delivered in June. Assad's regime is dominated by members of a Shiite offshoot sect. □

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British appeals court upholds law against euthanasia

MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British appeals court upheld a law against euthanasia in rejecting appeals from two severely disabled men who argued that doctors should be allowed to legally kill them.

The two men — one of whom died of pneumonia last year — claimed their right to “private and family life” as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights was being violated since they were not allowed to choose how and when they wanted to die.

In a judgment issued on Wednesday, the Court of Appeal acknowledged the current law interferes with that right but ruled the ban on euthanasia is justified. It upheld a decision by the High Court last year that any changes to the euthanasia law must be made by politicians, not judges.

In a unanimous ruling, the judges said the two men had “permanent and catastrophic physical dis-

abilities” but said the issue of euthanasia “raises profoundly sensitive questions about the nature of our society.” The judges wrote that “Parliament represents the conscience of the nation” and said the court had no jurisdiction to challenge the legal ban on euthanasia.

“I am absolutely gutted,” said Paul Lamb, one of the men involved, who was severely paralyzed after a car accident.

“I was hoping for a humane and dignified end,” Lamb said in a statement. “This judgment does not give me that.”

Lamb said he would carry on with the legal fight for euthanasia. His lawyer said they were considering options for appealing the case to the Supreme Court, together with the widow of the other man in the case, Tony Nicklinson.

In a related case, the court ruled that an appeal by another disabled man to clarify who will be allowed to help people commit sui-

cide, should be allowed. At the moment, the Crown Prosecution Service does not prosecute close family and friends if they help loved ones travel abroad to commit suicide as long as they act in good faith.

There is no such provision for doctors or nurses, for whom it is illegal to help or even provide medical records for patients if they suspect they may want to go abroad for assisted dying. Lawyers for a man known

only as Martin argued the policy was “defective” in failing to outline cases where health care professionals might be allowed to help their patients die. Martin’s family wants no involvement in his suicide. □



Paralysed road accident victim Paul Lamb, lies in a bed at his home in Leeds, northern England Wednesday July 31, 2013. A British appeals court on Wednesday July 31, 2013 upheld a law against euthanasia in rejecting appeals from two severely disabled men who argued that doctors should be allowed to legally kill them.

(AP Photo/Anna Gowthorpe/PA)

Spanish train crash driver identifies caller in court

BARRY HATTON

CIARAN GILES
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The driver of a Spanish train that crashed killing 79 people said he was talking by phone to the train's onboard ticket inspector moments before the accident but hung up just before the train left the tracks, a court said Wednesday.

Train driver Francisco Jose Garzon Amo went to the court on his own initiative and told the judge he received a call from the ticket inspector about which platform to take on arriving at a station, a court state-

ment said.

Garzon told the judge, who is trying to establish whether human error or a technical failure caused the country's worst rail accident in decades, that he hung up “seconds before” the train hurtled off the track.

Garzon's testimony cleared up the mystery of who had been on the phone with him as he approached a risky curve just outside Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain on July 24. However, it left a contradiction because the court said “black box” data recorders examined by investigators Tuesday showed

Garzon was on the phone at the time of the derailment — though they didn't know who was speaking to him beyond the fact it was a company employee.

Nor did Wednesday's statement on Garzon's unanticipated appearance before the investigating judge in Santiago de Compostela mention whether the driver was questioned about other preliminary findings from the black boxes, including the crucial question of the train's speed, that were announced the previous day. The train had been going as fast as 119 mph (192 kph) shortly before the de-

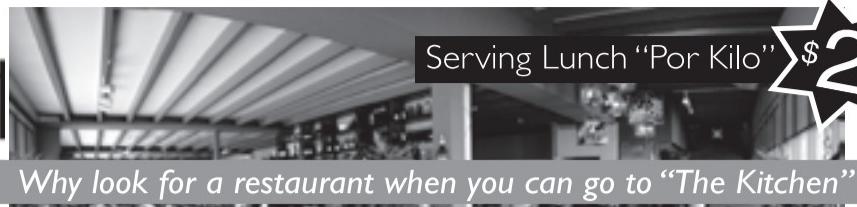
railment, and the driver activated the brakes “seconds before the crash,” according to those findings. The speed limit on the section of track where the crash happened was 50 mph (80 kph). A court spokeswoman was unable to give any further details regarding the driver's latest appearance. She confirmed, however, that the inspector had survived the crash and been identified.

Garzon, the driver, was provisionally charged Sunday with multiple counts of negligent homicide after his first testimony before the judge. He was not sent

to jail or required to post bail because none of the parties involved felt there was a risk of him fleeing or attempting to destroy evidence, according to a court statement.

He was apparently consulting a paper document in his cabin while on the phone with his colleague from national rail company Renfe when the train hurtled off the tracks, according to the preliminary findings. No technical failure has been found so far.

Some 61 people injured in the disaster are still hospitalized, 13 of them in critical condition. □



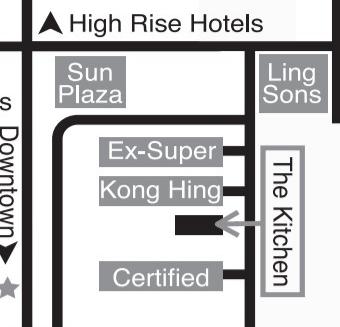
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Brazilians demand answers on bricklayer's disappearance



Beachgoers look at a trio of veiled wrapped mannequins that are part of a protest staged by Rio de Paz activists on Copacabana beach to press for clarifications on missing persons including a bricklayer who recently disappeared, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, July 31, 2013. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

JENNY BARCHFIELD
Associated Press
RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Activists pressing for light to be shed on the disappearance of a bricklayer who was last seen in police custody more than

two weeks ago staged a protest Wednesday on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach. The case of Amarildo de Souza, a 42-year-old father of six who has not been seen since he was picked

up for police questioning on June 14, has sparked

widespread outrage here, particularly in the sprawling Rocinha hillside "favela" where he was born and raised.

Souza's case has also shone the spotlight on the nearly 35,000 disappearances reported in the state over the past five years. Activists say that many of the disappeared were likely killed, some by organized crime and others by the police.

Two officers detained Souza at a bar in Rocinha on suspicions he was involved in drug trafficking and took him to a nearby police station for questioning, said Antonio Carlos Costa, whose Rio de Paz organization coordinated Wednesday's protest, citing accounts from Souza's family as well as eyewitnesses.

Police say it was a case of mistaken identity and that Souza was released shortly thereafter. They say he left the building by foot, but images from nearby surveillance cameras don't show any sign of him. Neither of the two surveillance cameras outside the police station were working on the day of Souza's detention, according to media reports.

"In the community of Rocinha, everyone is sure that Amarildo was executed and his body dumped in the woods somewhere," said Costa.

A body discovered in Rocinha on Tuesday was initially thought to be Souza's, but it turned out to be a woman's, the Globo television network reported. □

American killed in Thailand over singing dispute at bar

BANGKOK (AP) — An American tourist who insisted on singing with the band in a bar in a beach town in Thailand was killed by one of the musicians, police said Wednesday. Bobby Ray Carter Jr., 51, died at a hospital of a stab wound in his chest after a brawl broke out early Wednesday at the bar at Ao Nang beach in Krabi province, police Lt. Col. Jongrak Pimthong said. He said Carter, a Texas native, was intoxicated, began singing with the band and refused to leave the stage to let other customers sing. Witnesses said Carter got angry when the band

played 'Hotel California' instead of the song he requested, and he refused to step down," Krabi city police chief Col. Taksin Pochakorn said.

Police said the band then stopped playing and Carter and his 27-year-old son got into a furious argument with the musicians.

Jongrak said Carter was stabbed in his chest with an iron rod during the fight outside the bar and his son was injured in the head.

The three band members were arrested and face charges of causing death by physical attack.

Ao Nang is a popular spot for foreign tourists on Thailand's west coast. □

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Mexico murder rate falls slightly from 2011

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's homicide rate dropped slightly to 22 per 100,000 people last year from 24 per 100,000 in 2011, according to new estimates by the country's National Statistics and Geography Institute. Experts said Tuesday the drop was uneven, with some of Mexico's most violent states posting big declines and others showing big increases.

when it began a stepped-up policing effort, to 2,783 killings in 2012. Guerrero, home to the resort city of Acapulco, had homicides jump from 1,555 to 2,684 during those years. Bloodshed also worsened in the border state of Coahuila, where homicides rose from 730 to 1,158. But Baja California, home to the once-violent border city of Tijuana, had homicides fall sharply, from 1,528 to 584.

Nations. Alejandro Hope, a former member of Mexico's domestic intelligence service, said the Mexican figures suggested that states which made real efforts to overhaul their police forces showed improvement. "What this shows is that the ability of the state government in question counts, the level of their commitment counts," Hope said. "Wherever there has been a serious reform effort, for



Tourists walk the streets of Cancun, Mexico seeking nightlife entertainment as police patrol the area. Mexico's homicide rate dropped slightly since 2011, according to data.

For example, both the northern border state of Chihuahua and the southern Pacific coast state of Guerrero recorded 77 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2012.

Yet Chihuahua, home to the violent border city of Ciudad Juarez, has seen the number of homicides fall from 6,407 in 2010,

The institute said in a statement late Monday that a total of 26,037 homicides were recorded last year across Mexico, a country whose population is now estimated at 117.3 million. By comparison, Honduras had a 2011 homicide rate of 91.6 per 100,000. Brazil's 2011 figure was about 21.8, according to the United

example in Chihuahua, there have been improvements." Other characteristics, like territorial disputes between drug cartels, also play a role in where homicide rates rose or fell. Homicides in Mexico appear to have peaked at 27,199 in 2011, and may continue dropping, Hope said. □

(AP Photo)

Cuba:

7 dead after drinking methyl alcohol

HAVANA (AP) — Seven people have died of poisoning after consuming black-market methyl alcohol and 41 others remained hospitalized, Cuban authorities said Wednesday. A Health Ministry report read out on the state TV afternoon news said numerous people began showing up at Havana emergency rooms Monday exhibiting symptoms of "serious poisoning."

They were determined to

have consumed methyl alcohol, also called methanol or "wood alcohol." The substance is used in labs and research centers but is highly toxic for humans, potentially resulting in death or permanent health problems including blindness.

The Health Ministry said the victims bought the deadly booze from a black-market merchant who procured it from two pharmaceutical employees. Eight of the

41 people still hospitalized were in serious condition. The ministry urged anyone who may have consumed the alcohol and was experiencing symptoms such as nausea, headaches, vomiting or vision problems to seek urgent medical attention. Although it is not common, Cuban authorities occasionally report incidents of mass poisonings from food or moonshine liquor obtained from illicit sources. □

LATIN/CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

US may be willing to invest in Nicaragua canal

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA (AP) — A U.S. Department of Commerce official says the United States and U.S. investors would be willing to invest in the building of a canal across the middle of Nicaragua as long as the process is transparent. Deputy Assistant Secretary Walter Bastian says that he finds the project "fascinating" and that the U.S. government will follow up to see if there is interest from U.S. investors. Bastian said Tuesday while visiting Nicaragua that for the U.S. it is important that the process of awarding contracts is transparent and that those contracts have legal certainty. A Chinese company was awarded the canal project. □

Brazil to invest \$4B in Sao Paulo infrastructure

BRASILIA, BRAZIL (AP) — Brazil's president has announced a \$4 billion program to improve transport, sewage and public housing in Sao Paulo, the nation's biggest city. That comes in the wake of nationwide protests that saw angered demonstrators demanding better public services in return for the high taxes they pay. The protests kicked off in Sao Paulo in mid-June and continue to hit streets in Brazil's biggest cities. Rousseff said Wednesday that providing services for the 20 million people in Sao Paulo's metropolitan area presents a stiff challenge for the government. Some \$1.5 billion of the investments will focus on transport — in particular road corridors dedicated to buses. □

Puerto Rico adopting cruise industry incentives

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (AP) — Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla has approved a package of incentives aimed at bringing more cruise ship passengers to the U.S. island territory. The incentives include 10 percent discount on goods and services purchased by cruise lines as well as a reduction on the per passenger fee for a portion of the arrivals to the island through 2017. The package previously approved by the legislature also includes a subsidy for companies that use Puerto Rico as a home port for their ships. The island has been upgrading its main port in San Juan in recent years to accommodate more and larger cruise ships.

8 held over Costa Rica environmentalist slaying

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA (AP) — Costa Rican authorities say they have detained eight suspects in the killing of an environmentalist who worked to protect leatherback turtles on the country's Caribbean coast. Director of judicial investigations Francisco Segura says activist Jairo Moral Sandoval was killed two months ago by robbers in Limon province. Segura said Wednesday that the motive in Mora Sandoval's killing was robbery and possibly the rape of three women who were with him. Mora Sandoval was a volunteer with the nonprofit group Widecast. His beaten body was found May 31 on that beach. His hands were tied behind his back and he had been shot in the head. □

Mexican president's thyroid surgery successful

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Surgery on President Enrique Pena Nieto to remove a thyroid nodule Wednesday was successful and went exactly as planned, his staff and surgeon said. The nodule showed no signs of malignancy, said his surgeon, Brig. Gen. Juan Felipe Sanchez. "The results are very good," Sanchez told reporters in a news conference after the surgery. Pena Nieto, 47, was awake and recovering in his room in the Central Military Hospital after the procedure that took less than two hours, said Chief-of-Staff Aurelio Nuno. He will spend two days in the hospital and two more of recovery, holding private work meetings. He will return to his full schedule next week. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

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ORANJESTAD – LG Smith's Steak & Chop House located on the second floor of the Renaissance Mall is known to offer a great live entertainment every weekend to entertain all those who visit the restaurant to enjoy a exquisite Certified Angus beef steak meal combined with high quality wine.

The Jazz quartet founded by Jeanoir Koolman, Live Xpressions will be performing at LG Smith's Steak & Chop House from Friday till Sunday. Visit LG Smith's and enjoy the exceptional ambience combined with good food and Jazzy vibes presented by Live Xpressions. They will perform a great selection of the most popular Jazz numbers; Pierre Koolman, Jeanoir Koolman, Jean Paul Lacle, Louis

Koolman and Carlos Bislip will surely bring a perfect mix to entertain visitors of the casino as well as the restaurant. Every last Sunday of the month, there will be a special performance by "El Maestro" Eduardo Maya on his trumpet.

There are enough reasons for you to visit LG Smith's Steak and Chop House. Enjoy a moment of relaxation, select a fine wine from the extensive wine list and treat yourself to an unforgettable experience at LG Smith's. For reservations call; 523-6195 or visit www.lgsmiths.com. Don't forget to 'like' the LG Smith's Steak and Chop House Facebook page; open every night for dinner from 5:30pm till 11:00pm and the Midnight Grill is open from 11:00PM till 6:00AM. □



US Travel Agents enjoy Famtrip in Aruba!

ORANJESTAD - Recently Aruba received a visit from a group of travel agents, representing several companies from the Central/Midwest of the United States. This group of selected agents came to Aruba to familiarize themselves with our tourism product, especially the enhancement of our downtown area, Eagle Beach, the low rise hotel area and the Palm Beach strip. The

guests were very impressed with all the new amenities that the island has in these areas. Several of our luxurious Resorts were visited by the agents and they were amazed with everything our resorts have to offer in accommodations, amenities, activities and their food and beverages. The Travel Agents also went on an island tour and catamaran and snorkeling trip courtesy of De Palm

Tours, who was also their ground handler.

Mr. Ernest Giel from the Aruba Tourism Authority coordinated a fabulous program for the agents so they could get to know the island in its best.

The travel agents were very satisfied with what Aruba has to offer to their clients and went back home with great memories themselves of this fascinating famtrip. □



Super Food is first in line at the Festival of Prizes!

PALM BEACH - Together with our national Telecom firm Setar a fundraising event has been organized benefitting the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Because of lack of space a new and larger sanctuary needs to be built to accom-

modate the ever-growing number of donkeys, now almost 140. At this time the donkeys find their homes at various locations, even in a private garden. A lot of money is needed to bring all the donkeys together in one location at Bringamo-

sa. The Dutch foundation Dierenlot's substantial donation has been enough for the start of building the first necessities such as the containers for fodder, water containers, storage and fences. But a lot more money is needed for stables, a



shop and a visitor center. The Aruban government and the trade and industry are aware of the importance of a donkey sanctuary. Letting the donkeys roam wild is not an option because they create dangerous situations for our traffic and for themselves. The Aruban Donkey Sanctuary has become a great tourist attraction; visitors come to the sanctuary in droves, on their own or via tour operators such as the Palm Tours.

The fundraising event is very simple: if you are a Setar client you can sms the word BURICO (Papiamento for donkey) to number 250. The price of such an sms is AWG. 3-- and the total amount will go to the donkeys. With this sms you are in the running to win spectacular prizes and every week there are new prizes to be won. The event will run until October 4, Animal Day. And of course, the more sms-es you send, the more chances to win one of the weekly prizes.

uring the first week there are 4 prizes to be won, as our local mega supermarket Super Food has donated 4 gift certificates of AWG. 250-- each. Who would not like to go shopping for groceries like that, filling your cart without paying a single cent. Jack Bult, managing director of the brand new supermarket, is a great animal lover; he has been supporting the donkeys forever. He is convinced of the importance of keeping the donkeys off the streets and he salutes the many volunteers of the foundation. When Jack Bult can support the Donkey Sanctuary, he will, and so the people of the Sanctuary are very grateful for his spontaneous gesture. So please start sms-ing the word BURICO to number 250 and you may win, while supporting the Aruban Donkey Foundation. The more times you sms, the more chances you have to win and support one of the very nice attractions on the island.□

Beauty On The Beach

Sandra Santelmo

Living in Barcelona España She was born in Venezuela and her parents are born in Italy She works as a dentist in Spain. And this is her third visit in Aruba she is on vacation staying at a friends house

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International journalists explore Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

MANCHEBO BEACH – Recently, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa welcomed 12 international journalists accompanied by ATA representative Marilyn Feliciana and 'Z' PR Zimmerman agency Team Members, Lindsey Shindler and Bethany Swanson (both staying at Manchebo). Rachel Shippy of Ladies' Home Journal was also part of the team staying at Manchebo. Ladies' Home Journal is one of the top women's publications in



the U.S., reaching 3.2 million decision-making women per month, and engages women with 30-55 with relevant conversations on health and relationships; beauty and style; food and travel.

The group started with a yoga class at the beach Pavilion hosted by yoga instructor Anouscka van der Kuyp. After the yoga they



enjoyed a healthy breakfast buffet at Ike's Bistro, including fresh fruit smoothies. Although a site inspection was not planned in the schedule, the journalists loved to see the beautiful Spa del Sol on the beach and one of Manchebo's newly renovated Deluxe Ocean View rooms. The journalists also took a quick look in Manchebo's own Herb Garden. The group arrived on the island on July 25th, and will

be enjoying quite an extensive program to experience all the great restaurants and excursions Aruba has to offer, organized by the Aruba Tourism Authority.

As a health oriented hotel, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is giving their guests the opportunity to live healthy even away from home. Manchebo is honored to be able to welcome journalists to their intimate boutique resort. □

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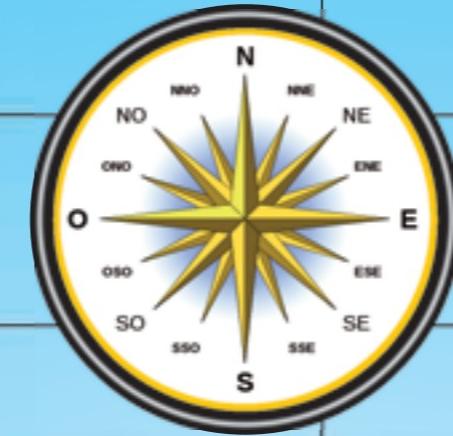
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- 8 Alto Vista
- 9 Capel
- 10 Alto Vista
- 11 Salina Cerca
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- 13 Calabas
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

MLB suspension talks drag; 14 players targeted

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is threatening to ban Alex Rodriguez for life unless the New York Yankees star agrees not to fight a lengthy suspension for his role in baseball's latest drug scandal, according to a person familiar with the discussions. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

Whether MLB Commissioner Bud Selig would actually issue a lifetime suspension was unclear and a permanent ban could be shortened by arbitrator Frederic Horowitz to about 200 games, the person said.

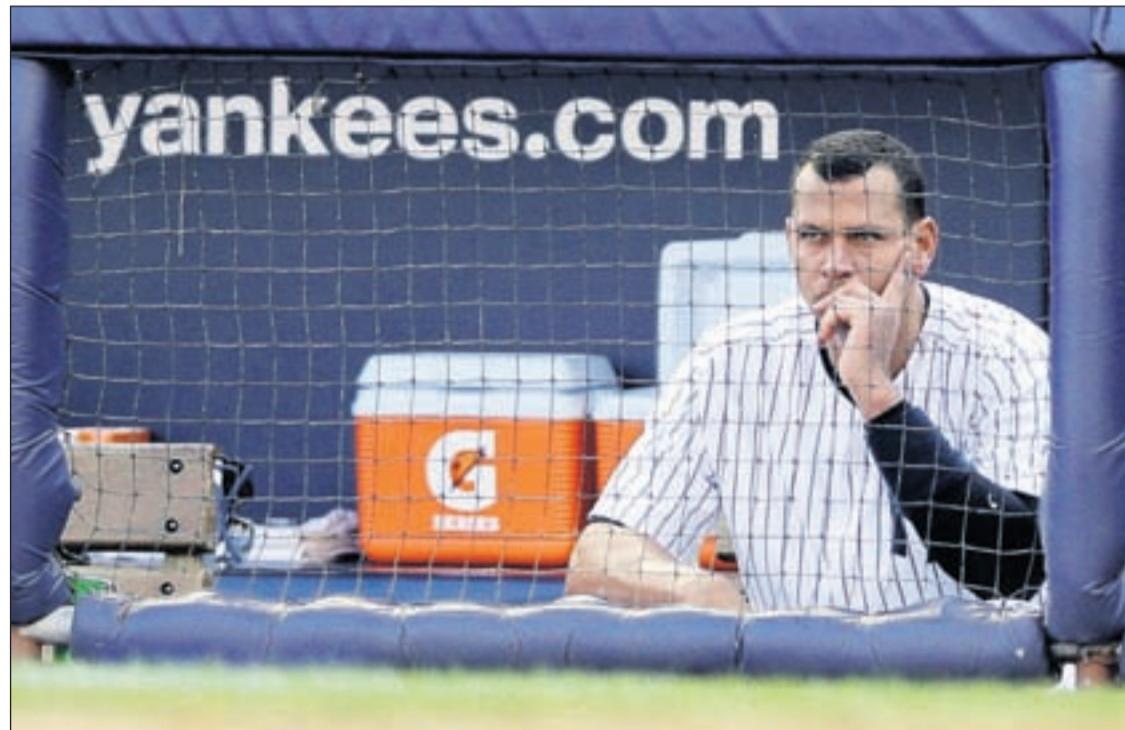
The number of players likely to be disciplined stood at 14 Wednesday.

Among them is Rodriguez, baseball's highest-paid player and the most prominent one linked in media reports over the past seven months to Biogenesis of

America, a closed Florida anti-aging clinic that allegedly distributed banned performance-enhancing drugs. The Yankees expected Rodriguez to be accused of recruiting other athletes for the clinic, attempting to obstruct MLB's investigation, and not being truthful with MLB in the past. Baseball has considered suspending him for violations of its labor contract and drug agreement. Even if he is banned from baseball, there is precedent for a shortened penalty: When pitcher Steve Howe was given a lifetime ban in 1992 in his seventh suspension for drug or alcohol use, an arbitrator reduced the penalty to 119 days.

A three-time MVP, Rodriguez acknowledged four years ago that he used performance-enhancing substances while with Texas from 2001-03 but repeatedly has denied using them since.

He's been sidelined all



In this Oct. 14, 2012 file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez sits in the dugout after striking out in the second inning of Game 2 of the American League championship series against the Detroit Tigers in New York.

Associated Press

season since hip surgery in January and then a quadriceps strain during a minor league rehabilitation assignment in July. The Yankees say he'll start another rehab Friday — Double-A

Trenton appeared to be the likely destination. "Hopefully Alex will be back shortly thereafter," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. Rodriguez didn't stop to

talk with reporters after his workout Wednesday at the team's minor league complex in Tampa, Fla.

Continued on page 21



Washington Kastles' Martina Hingis hits a backhand to Texas Wild's Eugenie Bouchard during their World Team Tennis singles match Friday, July 19, 2013, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — After a near six-year absence, former world No. 1 Martina Hingis is ready for a comeback to the WTA Tour.

But Hingis, a five-time Grand Slam singles champion, insists her return will only be in doubles and not singles.

Hingis, 32, begins her sec-

Hingis insists comeback limited to doubles only

ond comeback to the Tour when she plays Wednesday night in a doubles match with Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova in the Southern California Open. Hingis has retired twice previously, the first time in early 2003 at 22 and the last time in November 2007.

"I always had it in the back of my head in the last six years," said Hingis, who has been coaching for the last two years. "Now, being so much closer to it, being closer to the game, closer to the matches, I was like let's try it again and see if I

can have a great time." Her last WTA match was a second-round loss to China's Peng Shuai at an event in Beijing in September 2007.

But recent comments made by current tennis commentator Lindsay Davenport, the three-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1 ranked player, that Hingis was using the doubles comeback to launch a full-fledged return to singles later this fall, has fueled rampant speculation.

All of which the "Swiss Miss"

swatted away like a weak second serve.

"It's a different world," said Hingis, a recent inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. "Even Team Tennis now, it's brutal. It's only one set, but still like the next day I wake up and you have to put so much more effort into it. Playing tournaments, that's the easy part. It's all the grind behind it, behind the scenes that people don't see. The six straight hours of training. At 17, everything seemed to be so easy. Now, I'm almost twice the age." □

Peavy headed to Boston in three-team deal

BOSTON (AP) — The biggest trade of the Major League Baseball season was completed on Tuesday with pitcher Jake Peavy moving from the Chicago White Sox to Boston in a deal that also sent shortstop Jose Iglesias to Detroit.

The slick-fielding Iglesias provides a nice insurance policy for AL Central-leading Detroit in case Jhonny Peralta is suspended as part of baseball's Biogenesis drug investigation. Iglesias also can play second and third.

"The frank reality is that I do not know what is going to happen with Jhonny, but with this move, we now feel well protected if there is a long suspension," Tigers general manager David Dombrowski said.

"We didn't feel we were well protected in that situation with our internal options. If it were a 15-day thing, like a typical injury,

we could have comfortably dealt with it with the players we already have, but when you start to talk about 50 days and a possible playoff run, we feel better going ahead with Jose."

Peavy is 8-4 with a 4.28 ERA in 13 starts this season. The 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner was considered the best starting pitcher on the market ahead of Wednesday's non-waiver deadline.

"If there's one thing we wanted to do—if we could pull it off—is to add a starting pitcher as we look at the next two months," Boston general manager Ben Cherington said.

Peavy tweeted a message to White Sox fans after the deal was done:

"THANK YOU Chicago! It's been an honor & a privilege to pitch for u! You are 1st class & I will never forget you! So many emotions right now!"

With Clay Buchholz on the disabled list with a shoulder problem, the move gives Boston another proven starter for the run toward the playoffs. It also could strengthen the bullpen if the Red Sox decide to return rookie Brandon Workman to a relief role if Buchholz comes back.

"We thought Peavy, of the starting pitchers available, was the right fit for us," Cherington said. "It just came together that this was the deal we thought made the most sense."

The Red Sox also got reliever Brayan Villarreal from the Tigers. They shipped Iglesias to Detroit and three minor leaguers to the White Sox as part of the trade. Chicago also received prized prospect Avisail Garcia. Garcia, who turned 22 in June, hit .374 with five homers and 23 RBIs in 33 games for minor league Toledo.

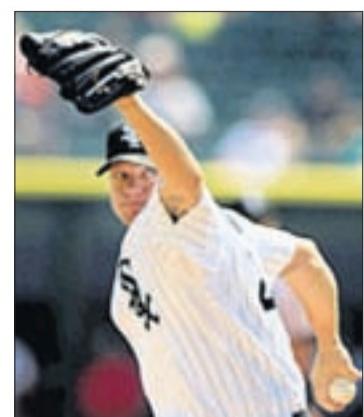
The outfielder, who was the

Tigers' minor league player of the year last season, was assigned to Charlotte.

"We're very excited about his upside," general manager Rick Hahn said. "We truly feel this is a five-tool player, someone who's not only going to hit for average but for power, run well, play above-average defense."

"He's still young and he still has a little bit of development ahead of him, but we feel we've acquired someone with a great deal of upside who's going to have a big impact on the South Side for many years to come."

Peralta is among a group of players who have been linked in media reports to Biogenesis, a closed Florida anti-aging clinic that was accused by Miami New Times in January of distributing banned performing-enhancing drugs, sparking an investigation by Major League Baseball.



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Jake Peavy throws to a Minnesota Twins batter during the first inning of a baseball game, in this Sept. 5, 2012 file photo taken in Chicago.

Associated Press

The league could hand down multiple suspensions as part of the case in a matter of days.

The 23-year-old Iglesias hit .330 with a home run and 19 RBIs in 63 games with the Red Sox, who trail division-leading Tampa Bay by half a game. He was the AL rookie of the month for June, when he batted .395 with six RBIs. □

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Franklin wins 3rd straight gold at swimming worlds

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Missy Franklin decided on Wednesday to give up her bid for eight gold medals at the world swimming championships — and was immediately rewarded with her third victory in as many races.

Franklin held off a late challenge from Federica Pellegrini to win the 200-meter freestyle, claiming a title the recent high school graduate really wanted and justifying her decision earlier in the day to cut back on the program in Barcelona. She also has gold medals here from the 4x100 free relay and the 100 backstroke.

The 18-year-old American entered eight events, giving her a chance to match Michael Phelps as the only swimmers to win that many events at a major championship.

But, after a tough double on Tuesday and a lackluster showing in the morning preliminaries, Franklin and her coach, Todd Schmitz, decided to scratch the 50 backstroke — a non-Olympic event that she swims mainly for fun, though she did take bronze at the 2011 worlds in Shanghai.

There was only a 20-minute break between the semifinals of the 50 back and the final of the 200 free, and the latter was much more important to Franklin. She just missed a medal in that event at the London Olym-



United States's Missy Franklin smiles after winning the gold medal in the Women's 200m freestyle final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

Associated Press

pics, losing out for third by a hundredth of a second. "We decided that maybe the risk kind of outdid the rewards," Franklin said. "So we decided not to do it. It was fun to swim it this morning but I'm really happy with the decision to scratch and just do this."

France's Camille Muffat went out hard, leading after the first lap and 0.75 under the world-record pace. But Franklin edged ahead at the midway point and held off hard-charging Federica Pellegrini of the Italy, the world-record holder, to win in 1 minute, 54.81 seconds.

Pellegrini claimed silver, 0.33 behind the winner, while Muffat settled for the bronze.

Midway through the swimming portion of the cham-

pionships, Franklin still has four events to go. She'll be a big favorite in the 200 back, and she'll be on two more relay teams that have a good shot at gold. The 100 free presents her biggest challenge, though it would be foolish to put anything past Franklin.

She was fifth in that event at the Olympics, but has spent the past year working diligently to improve her freestyle stroke.

That was obvious in the 200 free.

"We're coming down the mountain now," Franklin said. "This is what we prepared for, this kind of event through eight days. I'm really, really happy with my swim there. You kind of use each swim to motivate you for the next swim."

It was a good night

for South Africa, which claimed two gold medals. Chad le Clos, best known for his upset win over Phelps at the Olympics, showed he's still the man to beat in the 200 butterfly. He went back and forth with Poland's Pawel Korzeniowski before turning it on for the final lap to win in 1:54.32. After conceding it was a bit nerve-racking to now be looked at as the favorite, Le Clos hopped up on a lane rope, splashed water and pumped his fist. Korzeniowski held on for the silver in 1:55.01, while China's Wu Peng took the bronze at 1:55.09.

"I definitely think that this year I had more pressure.

I remember feeling really relaxed last year," Le Clos said. "Just before they announced my name I start-

ed feeling the butterflies, shaking a little bit. I just wanted to get out here and control the race. It was definitely different from last year's race."

Maybe it helped having his parents in the stands at the Palau Sant Jordi.

"I actually heard my dad just before I jumped in," Le Clos said. "I heard him say, 'Go boy!'"

With Phelps retired, the Americans were shut out of the medals. Tom Luchsinger was fifth and Tyler Clary seventh.

Cameron van der Burgh claimed gold in the 50 breaststroke, a non-Olympic event. He beat out Australia's Christian Sprenger, a reversal of their finish in the 100 breast.

Giulio Zorzi gave South Africa another medal by taking bronze.

China's Sun Yang claimed his second gold of the meet, turning on the speed over the final three laps to win the 800 freestyle going away. His winning time was 7:41.36, adding to his dominating victory in the 400 free. Sun was even more animated than Le Clos, straddling the rope, pounding his chest and pointing toward a group of fans waving the Chinese flag.

Michael McBroom of the U.S. took the silver, 2.24 seconds behind Sun. Canada's Ryan Cochrane rallied for the bronze, edging out American Connor Jaeger by 0.56 seconds. □



Mardy Fish hits the ball during his match against Julien Benneteau, from France, at the Citi Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, July 31, 2013 in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mardy Fish advanced to the third round of the Citi

Open on Wednesday, beating 12th-seeded Julien Benneteau of France

Fish, Isner win in Citi Open second round

6-3, 7-5.

Fish will next play seventh-seeded Kevin Anderson or Kevin Duckworth. Anderson was leading Duckworth 6-3, 3-6, 5-4 when play was suspended because of rain.

Third-seeded Tommy Haas was losing to Tim Smyczek 6-3, 5-7, 1-0 when play was suspended.

Eighth-seeded John Isner, coming off a victory last

week in Atlanta, came through 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) against Alex Kuznetsov to line up a match against India's Somdev Devvarman. Also, Russia's Dmitry Tursunov beat fifth-seeded Gilles Simon of France 6-4, 6-2; 13th-seeded Ivan Dodig of Croatia beat Germany's Tobias Kamke 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; and the Czech Republic's Radek Stepanek topped 17th-seeded Michael Llo-

dra of France 6-2, 6-1. On the women's side, Germany's Andrea Petkovic beat sixth-seeded compatriot Mona Barthel 6-2, 6-2 in the second round. Petkovic scraped her knee on the penultimate point, giving her a bright red mark.

"I'm happy to have something to show off now," said Petkovic, who will next play Paula Ormaechea or Olga Puchkova. □



In this June 29, 2013 file photo, Detroit Tigers' Jhonny Peralta reacts as he ducks away from an inside pitch from Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Chris Archer during the third inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla.

MLB suspension

Continued from page 18

At first, MLB and the union thought talks on the Biogenesis probe could be completed by Friday, but negotiations to avoid grievances are likely to push back announcements until at least Saturday or Sunday.

Others accused in media reports of receiving performance-enhancing drugs from Biogenesis include a trio of 2013 All-Stars: Texas outfielder Nelson Cruz, San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera and Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta.

Most of the players face 50-game bans as first offenders. Both sides felt urgency to complete the process because by the middle of next week, teams will have fewer than 50 games left. And that would force players to complete suspensions during the playoffs or at the start of next season. Detroit general manager Dave Dombrowski protected against a possible suspension of Peralta by acquiring slick-fielding infielder Jose Iglesias from Boston in a three-team trade Tuesday night.

"If it were a 15-day thing, like a typical injury, I think we could have comfortably dealt with it with the players we already have," Dombrowski said Wednesday. "But when you start to talk about 50 days and a possible playoff run, we feel better going ahead with Jose."

While MLB told the union which players it intends to suspend, it hasn't issued formal notices of discipline. Because of that, the countdown hasn't started under baseball's Joint Drug Agreement, which says the suspensions are effective on the third business day after the notice is issued.

The sides also haven't decided whether suspensions for first-time offenders who challenge the penalty can be announced before an arbitration decision.

If some stars knew their seasons were about to be cut short, they weren't letting on Wednesday, at least publicly.

"I can't talk about nothing right now. Just wait for the news," Cabrera said Wednesday before playing against Cincinnati. Peralta thinks he shouldn't be on the list of players linked to Biogenesis.

"It's wrong," he said. "But

whatever happens, I need to fight and try to move on."

Toronto outfielder Melky Cabrera, Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon and San Diego catcher Yasmani Grandal were all suspended for 50 games last year for positive tests for elevated testosterone. MLB informed the union they won't receive additional discipline for that violation, two people familiar with the probe said. They also spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

"Nothing's been told to me," Melky Cabrera said. "I served my suspension last year, but MLB has never told me that it's OK now. I'm seeing it in the press, but I don't know."

Texas was unable to find a replacement bat to fill a void a suspension of Cruz would create.

"I don't think anybody's comfortable losing a significant part of your club, but it's out of our control," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "We explored some deal like that. They just didn't come to a head. It wasn't for lack of interest or lack of effort. It was more lack of supply and lack of fit, really." □

Associated Press



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AUGUST 1 - 7

NEW THIS WEEK!



HANK AZARIA | NEIL PATRICK HARRIS

Despicable Me 2

3D WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]

MON - FRI 4:55 | 7:15
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45
FRI 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45 | 11:15
SAT 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:20 | 8:45 | 11:15
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DENZEL WASHINGTON | MARK WAHLBERG

2GUNS

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HUGH JACKMAN | RILA FUKUSHIMA

THE WOLVERINE

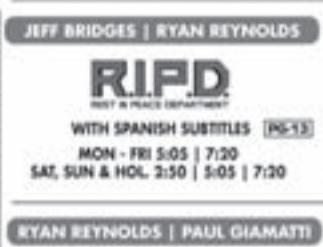
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

REGULAR VERSION

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3D VERSION

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SAT, SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20



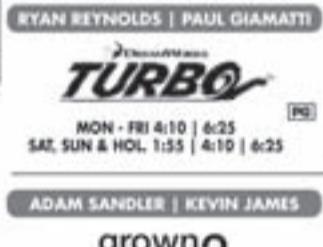
JEFF BRIDGES | RYAN REYNOLDS

R.I.P.D.

MOST IN PEACE DEPARTMENT [PG-13]

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

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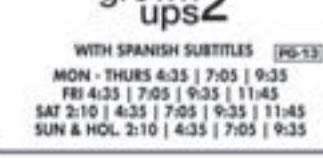


JASON STATHAM | AGATA BUZEK

REDEMPTION

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES [PG]

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SUN & HOL 9:35



RYAN REYNOLDS | PAUL GAMMATTE

TURBO

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ADAM SANDLER | KEVIN JAMES

RED 2

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STEVE CARELL | KRISTEN WIIG

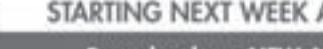
grown ups 2

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DESPICABLE ME 2 [PG]

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The Vagus Diet

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

History is full of people who carry messages. Our word messenger comes from the Latin 'missus', which means "send". Interestingly, 'angel' is used to translate the Greek word of the New Testament pronounced ang-el-os originally meaning messenger. Thus, from the beginning messengers have been special individuals.

Bundles of fibers in your body form a network that transmits messages between the brain or spinal cord and the body's organs. These are your nerves. Of all your nerves, the vagus nerve is arguably the single most important nerve in your body.

The Medieval Latin word vagus means literally "wandering" and is the perfect description for the vagus nerve, the longest nerve in the body. It averages almost two feet in length and "wanders" throughout the upper body. The vagus nerve starts in the brain, goes down the neck and into the body where it affects the vocal cords, the acid content of the stomach, the heart, the lungs, and other organs. In the brain it projects to areas believed to be responsible for seizures, mood, appetite, memory and anxiety.

However, the vagus nerve does not have many pain nerves, so stimulation or depression of the vagus nerve is not painful. Knowing this, weight loss practitioners who many times say they

are using safe, acupressure techniques, place magnetic pellets on the ears and along the vagus nerve to lower the activity or force of the messages traveling on this nerve. The vagus nerve is also called the pneumogastric nerve since it stimulates the lungs and the stomach muscles, causing these organs to do their job. This is a good thing.

Blocking or slowing down the messages to the stomach makes the stomach function less, producing less digestive fluids, digestion is greatly reduced and many individuals will start losing weight. Unfortunately, slowing down the vagus nerve also means slowing down heart, lung, intestines, and other organ functions. Not such a good idea.

Secondly, people who experience weight loss from this procedure or through a fad diet will invariably gain the weight back. As soon as the pellets are removed and, hopefully normal nerve function returns to the vagus nerve, the stomach starts producing again. With empty fat cells still in the body, the priority is to refill these empty cells and the fat quickly comes back. The depression of the vagus nerve does not deal with yeast overgrowth, insulin resistance or the five basic factors of weight gain.

As a Certified Clinical Nutritionist I educate our patients to the realities

of our modern world. The first is a gradual gain from food in excess with exercise deficit that reflects our modern lifestyle. Secondly, changes in metabolism from eating the wrong food for your metabolic type and reduced physical activity, increases activity of fat storage mechanisms. Third, for many of us baby-boomers as we age there is a slow progressive weight gain into sixth or seventh decade associated with decreased lean-body mass. Fourth, compulsive eating or food addiction with its associated symptoms and ill-health. And finally, between lifestyle tendencies and the food-allergy complex lies a twilight zone of emotional instability, careless self indulgence and irritable child-like behavior of emotional eating of "feel good" food.

It was the custom in Ancient Greece and later in Rome to employ messengers to carry the news throughout the city/state/empire. This news was not always to the liking of the recipients but the laws decreed that these messengers were to pass unharmed from place to place to deliver whatever message they were commanded. Thus, the law stated and the Greek or Latin expression 'Don't kill the messenger' comes from. Good advice.

After the defeat of the battle at Actium, Anthony feared for the life of his beloved Cleopatra. Hearing of his distress Cleopatra sent Diomedes as her messenger to tell Anthony that she was still alive. Unfortunately, Diomedes was too slow and arrived after Anthony committed suicide by falling on his sword.



Competently trained Traditional Chinese Medical physicians use acupuncture to regulate your respiratory system by stimulating the vagus nerve and the sympathetic nervous system. We can even use acupuncture to relax the narrow tube inside the lungs that branches off the main air passages during an asthma crisis. Additionally, through vagus nerve stimulation we regulate gastrointestinal function and motility, relieving stomach spasm; or, regulate kidney and bladder functions to correct such disorders as incontinence and urine retention.

Acupuncture or pressure alone is not the "magic" way to lose weight. However, properly done together with nutritional education, elimination of toxins and stress and a safe whole body lifestyle plan, you can get in shape and stay that way. Cleaning the colon with a trained colon hydro-therapist is the foundation of a weight re-

duction program.

Get The Point! Allowing weight loss practitioners to mess with your vagus nerve to lose weight is like "Cutting off your nose to spite your face". This expression that refers to pointlessly self-destructive activity is good advice. It's not surprising that similar proverbs have been popular in other languages and cultures, including my favorite from the People's Republic of China that says "Do not burn down your own house even to annoy your wife's mother." Want to lose weight safely? Call and make an appointment with a clinical nutritionist.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's Award Winning BOOK: [Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine](#) – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook on Kindle, Nook & iTunes - check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingcenter. □

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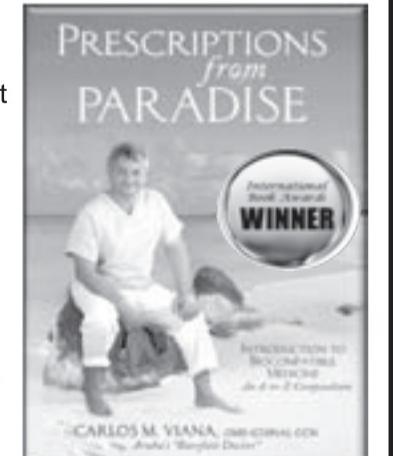


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*Food & Chemical Sensitivity Testing
*Specialized Hormone Testing

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Microsoft Office comes to Android, but not tablets

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft is bringing a pared-down version of its Office software to Android phones, but it won't work on Android tablets just as it doesn't on iPads.

The software will be available starting Wednesday. It requires a \$100-a-year subscription to Office and won't be sold separately.

The new offering follows the release of an iPhone version in June and brings an Office app to phones running the most widely used operating system on new smartphones.

Microsoft Corp. is trying to make its Office 365 subscription more compelling, without removing an advantage that tablet computers running Microsoft's Windows system now have — the ability to run popular Office programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. "The release of this app shows that we're committed to keep providing additional value for Of-



This undated image provided by Microsoft Corp., shows a Windows Store only at Best Buy.
Associated Press

fice 365 subscribers," the company wrote in a blog post. "Office 365 subscribers will now be able to access, view, and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents with Windows Phone, iPhone and Android phones." Microsoft is pushing subscriptions as a way

to get customers to keep paying for a product that was historically sold in a single purchase. The company touts such benefits as the ability to run the package on multiple computers and get updates for free on a regular basis. However, a subscription can be more

expensive than buying the package outright for just one or two computers. Microsoft said it designed Office Mobile for Android phones specifically for small-screen devices, even though many people will prefer editing documents on a tablet's larger screen.

The company has a version for iPads and Android tablets, called Office Web Apps, but that runs on a Web browser and requires a constant online connection. The new Android software is an app that gets installed on the phone and can work offline. □

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NSA chief talks at hackers' conference in Las Vegas

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The head of the U.S. National Security Agency defended the government's much-criticized surveillance program against hecklers among a crowd of computer systems analysts Wednesday, but also had a challenge for them: If you don't like it, lend your talent to build a better one. "You're the greatest tech talent anywhere in the world. Help us," Army Gen. Keith Alexander said at the hacker conference for the buttoned-up corporate and government security analyst crowd, not the one later in the week for the more counter-culture types. Alexander spent much of his 45-minute address explaining how government methods used

to collect telephone and email data helped foil 54 terror plots since 1993. He was interrupted at times by hecklers, but also drew applause. "Our nation takes stopping terrorism seriously," he said, standing in short sleeves with a slide on the screen behind him showing a timeline and the number of foiled plots.

"Freedom!" one man shouted from the middle of the standing-room crowd. "Exactly. We stand for freedom," Alexander said. "Bulls--t," the heckler said. "Not bad," Alexander replied before continuing his keynote speech to the annual Black Hat conference at Caesars Palace. Organizers said the conference drew 7,000 people. Alexander didn't refer in his address specifically to leaks by former NSA



Army Gen. Keith Alexander, head of the National Security Agency, delivers a keynote address at the Black Hat hacker conference on Wednesday, July 31, 2013, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

systems analyst contractor Edward Snowden of classified documents that brought attention on the government's surveillance efforts. He remained unapologetic, denying another heckler's claim that he lied to Congress about methods the NSA uses to "connect the dots" and "go after the bad actors who may want to do us harm." "People say, 'I hear what you say, but I don't trust that,'" Alexander said. "How do we defend this country? That is the question," he said. "The nation needs to know we're going to do the right thing." The four-star general, who has headed the NSA for eight years, said it wasn't true the agency listens to specific phone calls and reads emails. He said "no one at NSA" has ever gone outside the legal boundaries of the Patriot Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act programs allowing the collection of "metadata." □

Stocks log best month since January on Fed pledge

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After a day of stalled rallies, the stock market closed out July with its best monthly gain since January.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended the month 4.95 percent higher. That's the biggest increase since January, when it rose 5.04 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average also had its best month since January.

Markets surged in July after

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke assured investors that the central bank wouldn't pull back on its stimulus program until the economy was strong enough. The central bank is buying \$85 billion of bonds a month to keep down interest rates to encourage borrowing and hiring.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended little changed at 1,685.73. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day 21 points lower, or 0.1 percent, at 15,499.54.

The Nasdaq composite gained 9.90 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,626.37. The index fell just five times during the month and is at its highest level in more than a decade.

On Wednesday, the Fed reaffirmed its commitment to support the economy in a statement released after the end of a two-day meeting. The central bank dropped hints that it might need to maintain its stimulus, and slightly downgraded its assessment of

U.S. economic growth from "moderate" to "modest." That initially gave stocks a boost, pushing the S&P 500 within two points of breaching the 1,700 level for the first time in afternoon trading. But the rally faded in the final hour, leaving the S&P flat at the end of the day.

Given the market's big gains in July, stocks may struggle to climb further in the coming months, said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors.

"I would not be the least bit surprised to see some modest consolidation," said Orlando. Stocks started higher Wednesday after the government said that the economy grew at a faster pace in the second quarter than economists had forecast.

The gain was mostly gone by the time the Fed statement came out at 2 p.m. (1800 GMT). The market staged another rally for about an hour after the Fed's announcement, then ended little changed.

The U.S. grew at an annual rate of 1.7 percent from April through June as businesses spent more and the federal government cut less spending, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Economists had expected growth of 1 percent, according to the data provider FactSet.

There was also an encouraging report on hiring ahead of the government's monthly jobs survey due out Friday.

U.S. businesses created a healthy 200,000 jobs this month, payroll company ADP said, as companies hired at the fastest pace since December. ADP also raised its estimate of the number of jobs the private sector created in June.

On the bond market, investors anticipated that the Fed's slightly weaker assessment of the economy would imply a longer period of bond purchases. Bond yields fell as demand increased for U.S. government debt. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.58 percent from 2.66 percent just before the announcement.

Investors were also tracking company earnings Wednesday.

Comcast rose \$2.37, or 5.5 percent, to \$45.08 after the parent company of the NBC network and Universal Studios reported earnings and revenue that exceed analysts' expectations in the second quarter.

Software company Symantec, which makes the Norton antivirus software, surged after the company reported earnings and revenue that beat analysts' forecasts. The stock rose \$2.33, or 9.6 percent, to \$26.68. □



Specialists Peter Kennedy, Bernard Wheeler, and Philip Finale, left to right, confer on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Steady growth in the U.S. economy and higher company earnings are pushing the stock market higher in early trading.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Oil has biggest gain in 3 weeks on Fed, US economy

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil rose the most in three weeks amid signs that the U.S. economy is improving, but not fast enough for the Federal Reserve to reduce its monthly bond-buying program.

Still, many analysts don't expect a further spike in oil prices like the one seen earlier in July.

U.S. benchmark oil gained \$1.95, or 1.9 percent, to close at \$105.03 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's the biggest one-day gain since oil rose \$2.99 on July 10.

Traders were encouraged

by two economic reports. The government said the economy grew at a better-than-expected annual rate of 1.7 percent in the second quarter. And a survey from payroll company ADP showed U.S. businesses created a healthy 200,000 jobs this month. The reports signal the possibility of improved demand for gasoline and other refined products such as diesel fuel.

Gasoline futures rose 3 cents to finish at \$3.04 per gallon.

In the afternoon, the Federal Reserve slightly downgraded its assessment of economic growth from

"moderate" to "modest." That's an indication the Fed might need to maintain its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases, which have helped keep long-term borrowing rates ultra-low and boosted purchases of riskier investments such as stocks and oil futures.

The Fed statement boosted the price of oil above \$105. Oil finished the month of July with a gain of \$8.47 a barrel, or 8.8 percent.

The latest supply data from the U.S. Energy Department was mixed. Oil supplies rose by 400,000 barrels last week — the first increase in five weeks — although sup-

plies at the crucial Cushing, Oklahoma, hub for benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude declined by 1.9 million barrels.

Despite Wednesday's jump in price, analysts don't see oil rallying much further.

Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates, expects oil to trade in a range of \$103 to \$106 a barrel in the near term before declining.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch issued a report that said rising production in the U.S. and slowing growth in emerging markets should constrain oil prices. The re-

search firm said that "unless a deteriorating geopolitical outlook in the Middle East results in further crude oil supply disruptions, the rally in WTI prices is unlikely to persist."

The market has another key economic report to look forward to. On Friday the release of employment data for July will be examined for hints about future energy demand in the world's No. 1 economy.

Brent crude, traded on the ICE Futures exchange in London, rose 79 cents to end at \$107.70 per barrel.

In other energy futures trading on Nymex: □

DuPont wins 3 year battle for South African seed company

DAVID PITT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — After a nearly three-year battle with South African regulators, DuPont Co. said Wednesday that it has completed the purchase of a majority stake in South Africa's Pannar Seed. The deal greatly expands the chemical and seed company's access to new markets, and will help it boost research efforts and seed availability for farmers in Africa.

DuPont's Pioneer subsidiary, based in Des Moines, Iowa, is the second-biggest seed company in the United States after Monsanto Co. It now takes control of an 80 percent stake in Pannar Seed Ltd., a 55-year-old firm with operations throughout Africa and in other parts of the world. Financial terms weren't disclosed, but DuPont Pioneer President Paul Schickler said it is one of the largest deals in the subsidiary's history and DuPont's largest investment on the African continent.

Africa marks a major growth opportunity for seed companies because of the global scramble to grow enough crops to meet growing demand for food and biofuels. Because so much of the region has missed out on yield-improving technology, the upside to biotech development is significant. The continent has

86 million acres (35 million hectares) available for corn production, but average grain yields are about one-third of what is achieved in other developing regions and only one-fifth of yields in developed countries. Meanwhile, corn seed demand is strong and growing. In South Africa alone, annual hybrid corn seed sales total about \$350 million. But it hasn't been an easy path for DuPont.

The company first announced the purchase in September 2010, in an effort to help Pioneer better compete with Monsanto

to win a bigger share in the global market for genetically engineered crops. But the South African Competition Tribunal blocked the deal. In May 2012, an appeals court overturned that decision and gave DuPont regulatory clearance. DuPont helped to sway critics by promising to invest \$6.2 million by 2017 to establish a technology hub in South Africa to serve the region, similar to research hubs that the company has established in Brazil, India and China. The hub will incorporate Pioneer and Pannar research and testing locations, combined plant genetic resource collections, and staff to improve plant breeding and development for Africa. The Africa technology hub will be connected to the Pioneer global research and development network, sharing data and analyzing research results. Research efforts will support all crops for which Pioneer and Pannar currently maintain breeding programs, including corn, sunflower, grain sorghum, forage sorghum, wheat, dry beans and soybeans. The companies also have committed to investing another \$2 million to help farmers with small operations learn how to use hybrid seeds and adjust practices to get the best use of the new seed technology.

Pioneer will retain the Pannar brand and will expand the Pioneer and the Pannar brands and businesses.

"The partnership between Pioneer and Pannar is beneficial on many levels. It represents growth opportunities for both businesses, for employees, and for the productivity of small-scale and commercial farmers who form the backbone of Africa's economy and who will feed the continent's rapidly growing middle class and increasing population," Schickler said in a statement. □

Dell's board rejects CEO's buyout bid

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dell's board rejected CEO Michael Dell's attempt to change the voting rules for his bid to buy the slumping personal computer maker, a decision that is likely to doom the deal.

But the endangered buyout could still get a reprieve if Michael Dell and his allies accept a counterproposal that would extend the voting period for a third time and allow a bigger pool of shareholders to cast ballots.

The rebuff announced Wednesday marks the latest blow that Michael Dell and his main backer, Silver Lake Partners, have absorbed since reaching an agreement with Dell Inc.'s board nearly six months ago to buy the Round Rock, Texas, company for \$24.4 billion, or \$13.65 per share.

A vote on Michael Dell's offer is scheduled to be held Friday. He had proposed a change designed to make it easier for that bid to win shareholder approval: In exchange for an extra \$150 million, Michael Dell wanted to exclude shareholders who didn't vote from being counted as in the opposition column.

Dell's board turned down that demand, but said it's willing to postpone Friday's vote and give sharehold-

ers several more weeks to consider the buyout proposal if Michael Dell and Silver Lake don't withdraw the slightly higher offer of \$24.6 billion, or \$13.75 per share, dangled before the company last week.

The original bid has faced stiff criticism from a vocal camp of critics led by two of Dell's largest shareholders, billionaire Carl Icahn

search.

Investors Wednesday appeared resigned to the deal unraveling. The company's stock fell to its lowest levels since the buyout agreement was announced in early February. The shares shed 20 cents to close at \$12.66 after falling as low as \$12.28 during the session.

A slightly different set of



Michael Dell, Chairman and CEO of Dell Inc., reacts to a question during a news conference in Beijing. Dell's board rejected CEO Michael Dell's attempt to change the voting rules for his bid to buy the slumping personal computer maker, a decision that is likely to doom the deal on Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

and investment firm Southeastern Asset Management, who want to oust Michael Dell as CEO and replace the company's entire board to pursue different alternatives.

"Michael Dell is facing a real uphill battle now, but it seems like things are changing just about every day," said analyst Shannon Cross of Cross Re-

shareholders would be able to weigh in on the higher offer because the board said it's prepared to change the voting eligibility in a small concession to Michael Dell and Silver Lake. The voting is currently confined to shareholders who held stock as of June 3, a date that locks out investors who have bought stock after that. q

MasterCard 2Q earnings climb as revenue grows

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — MasterCard, the payments processing company, reported a 19 percent increase in its second-quarter profit as more people worldwide used its debit and credit cards to make payments. The results topped Wall Street expectations, and its shares finished the day modestly higher.

The company's business is growing most strongly in emerging markets. The dollar value of transactions made using debit and credit cards bearing the MasterCard logo rose 17 percent in Latin America

and 21 percent in the combined Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific region. The value of transactions in the U.S. increased 6.5 percent. "We had a very good second quarter supported by increases in volume and transactions in all regions of the world despite slow economic growth globally," said Ajay Banga, MasterCard president and CEO.

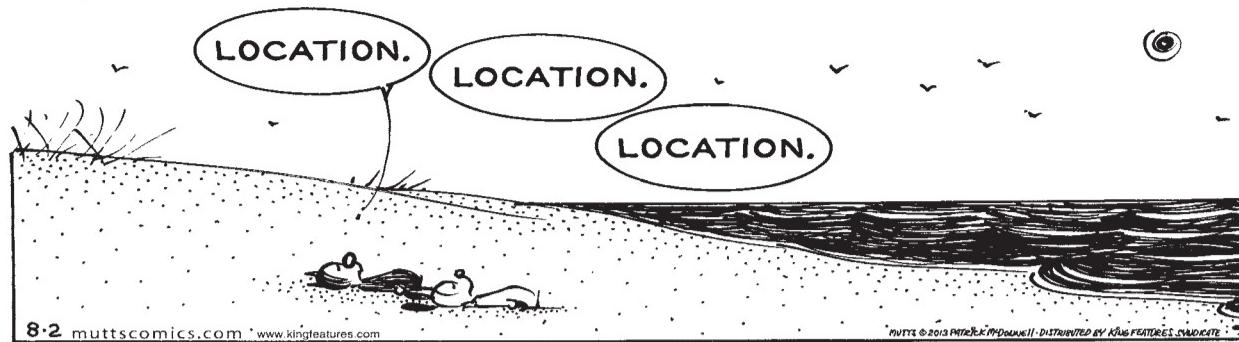
The company, based in Purchase, N.Y., earned \$848 million, or \$6.96 a share, in the second quarter, which ended June 30. That's up from \$700 million, or \$5.56 a share, a year ago.

Revenue rose 15 percent to \$2.1 billion from \$1.8 billion.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected earnings of \$6.31 a share on revenue of \$2 billion. MasterCard also gave an update of its share buyback program for the current quarter. Through July 25 the company repurchased 296,000 of its own shares, at a cost of \$174 million, leaving \$1.1 billion under the current program. In the second quarter, the company bought 1.1 million of its own stock at a cost of \$581 million.

MasterCard shares rose \$9.19, or 1.5 percent, to \$610.61 in trading Wednesday after rising as high as \$626.23 earlier in the session. q

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	9	4		1							
9				1		2						
7			6	5								
8					2		3					
						7		4				
							5	8		7		
4					2			3				
						1	9	3	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	7	1	2	5	9	8	6	3				
2	6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4				
8	3	5	4	7	6	1	9	2				
1	8	3	6	4	5	2	7	9				
9	4	2	8	3	7	6	1	5				
6	5	7	9	1	2	4	3	8				
3	9	6	7	2	4	5	8	1				
5	2	8	1	6	3	9	4	7				
7	1	4	5	9	8	3	2	6				

Yesterday's puzzle answer



P	A	P	A	S	I	T	E	M	C	H	O	W
E	X	E	R	T	S	I	L	O	H	A	L	E
A	L	A	M	O	L	E	I	S	A	D	A	L
R	E	T	O	R	T	Q	U	I	V	E	R	R
L	A	Y	E	R	S	E	E	D	S	E	S	D
O	W	E	S	A	L	T	S	O	A	S	I	S
M	E	N	D	H	E	A	T	H	W	I	R	E
A	S	T	I	R	E	B	S	E	N	T	O	P
G	R	A	C	I	A	S	Y	E	N	E	M	N
R	A	T	I	N	G	C	I	N	N	A	M	O
A	T	O	P	G	I	L	A	I	N	A	N	E
B	I	L	E	D	E	N	E	L	E	I	L	E
S	O	L	I	D	A	F	T	S	Y	N	O	D

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8/13

- 40 Button alternatives
41 Yank
43 Ulysses S. and Amy
44 Uplifted
45 Traitor
46 Sink
47 Pierce
48 Loyal; faithful
49 Go off on a tirade
50 In this place
52 Perched upon
53 Declare untrue
55 Argon or neon
56 Legislator's title: abbr.
57 Actor's signal

Forget the sex - it's shirtless in the city!

GUY TREBAY

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - California strikes. Manhattan is becoming Malibu. Once, in the long-gone "Mad Men" days, it was considered de rigueur for New Yorkers to wear a hat and gloves in town. Now dress codes have devolved to the point where folks wear fleecy slippers on the subway, flip-flops to the ballet, running tights for every occasion, repurposed pajamas as daywear and, recently, very little at all.

We are referring here to a curious trend among men in the city to go walking about without shirts.

Note, for instance, recent tabloid pictures showing Orlando Bloom strolling through TriBeCa with his dog on a leash and son in a stroller. The British actor was dressed in shower shoes, a baseball cap and cargo shorts slung low enough to brand-check his red briefs and to see a solar tattoo inked south of his navel. And that was about all.

Sure it was hot. Temperatures had been hovering in the 90s for seven days running. Furnace blasts radiated off sidewalks. To stand on a subway platform felt like getting too close to a Weber grill.

Naked above the waist, Bloom was doing what a sensible person might to stay cool, if that person lived on the Pacific Coast Highway and was headed to Malibu Country Mart for an iced cappuccino.

But Bloom was not in the 90265 ZIP code. And historically, inhabitants even of laid-back 10013 have not been in the habit of walking around semi-naked. Those were the old days, a time before everywhere one went in the city men saw men who'd lost their shirts.

It is all a predictable part of the dressing-down of America, said Patricia Mears, deputy director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

"It's great we live in a democratic society, but we've lost all sense of decorum and occasion," Mears said.

"To be on Fifth Avenue is now about the same as being on the Coney Island boardwalk."

To display your unclad torso on Fifth Avenue is also, she added, to give proof of the proposition that in

toy played by Anderson Davis in the Kraft Zesty salad dressing ad campaign just a 30-second version of the male stripper Channing Tatum portrayed in last year's blockbuster "Magic Mike"?



A shirtless man near Union Square, New York. Is a heat wave enough of an excuse for a man to leave his shirt at home? For some New Yorkers, the answer was yes.

(Deidre Schoo/The New York Times)

the evolutionary arc of masculinity, men are no longer the oglers; they are the object of the gaze. Signs of this are everywhere: on Broadway, where male frontal nudity is now so commonplace that it evokes fewer cries of outrage than yawns; on television, where bare-chested male stars are standard fare both on shows like "Hawaii Five-O," where shirtless himbos might be expected, and on series like "Chicago Fire"; and in advertising, where male pulchritude is used to hawk everything from Diet Coke to salad dressing.

Even this is not new, precisely. Isn't the shirtless landscaper featured in the current steamy Diet Coke commercials merely an updated version of the shirtless construction worker Lucky Vanous portrayed in similarly racy ads in 1994? And isn't the campy boy-

That Madison Avenue has finally gotten around to objectifying men's bodies was hardly lost on Twitter users. It is. And yet what's disorienting about all the peekaboo, said Mears, is "a blurring of lines," of decorum and the demarcation between public and private space, lines crossed long ago in places like Southern California, where sweatpants are more common than suits and no one thinks twice about wearing a bikini to go to the mall. □

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Masses of plastic particles found in Great Lakes

JOHN FLESHER

AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan (AP) — Already ravaged by toxic algae, invasive mussels and industrial pollution, North America's Great Lakes now confront another potential threat that few had even imagined until recently: untold millions of plastic litter bits, some visible only through a microscope.

Scientists who have studied gigantic masses of floating plastic in the world's oceans are now reporting similar discoveries in the lakes that make up nearly one-fifth of the world's fresh water. They retrieved the particles from Lakes Superior, Huron and Erie last year. This summer, they're widening the search to Lakes Michigan and Ontario, skimming the surface with finely meshed netting dragged behind sailing vessels.

"If you're out boating in the Great Lakes, you're not going to see large islands of plastic," said Sherri Mason, a chemist with State University of New York at Fredonia and one of the project leaders. "But all these bits of plastic are out there."

Experts say it's unclear how long "microplastic" pollution has been in the lakes or how it is affecting the environment. The newly identified hazard is the latest of many for a Great Lakes fish population that has been hammered by natural enemies like the parasitic sea lamprey, which nearly wiped out lake trout, and man-made contamination. Through it all, the fishing industry remains a pillar of the region's tourist economy. Until the research is completed, it won't be clear whether the pollution



In this 2012 photo provided by 5gyres.org, Sherri Mason, right, a chemist with State University of New York at Fredonia and one of the project leaders, works aboard a research vessel on Lake Erie with a device that skims the water surface collecting samples in finely meshed netting.

Associated Press

will affect fishing guidelines, the use of certain plastics or cities that discharge treated wastewater into the lakes. Scientists have already made a couple startling finds. The sheer number of plastic specks in some samples hauled from Lake Erie, the shallowest and smallest by volume, were higher than in comparable samples taken in the oceans. Also, while it's unknown where the ocean plastic came from, microscopic examination of Great Lakes samples has produced a smoking gun: many particles are perfectly round pellets. The scientists suspect they are abrasive "micro beads" used in personal care products such as facial and body washes and toothpaste. They're so minuscule that they flow through screens at waste treatment plants and wind up in the lakes, said Lorena Rios Mendoza, a chemist with the University of Wisconsin-Superior. At the urging of scientists and advocates, some big companies have agreed to phase them out.

During a meeting of the

American Chemical Society in April, Rios reported the team had collected up to 1.7 million tiny particles last year in Lake Erie, which acts as something of a "sink" because it receives the outflow from the three lakes to the north — Superior, Michigan and Huron.

Mason said preliminary samples indicate "Lake Ontario is as contaminated as Lake Erie, if not more so."

The Great Lakes are no



In this 2012 photo provided by 5gyres.org is a sample collected in eastern Lake Erie showing tiny bits of plastic on a penny.

Associated Press

stranger to ecological calamity. Zebra and quagga mussels have destabilized food chains, and ravenous Asian carp are poised to invade. Runaway algae blooms that had been stamped out a generation ago have returned. Dozens of harbors and river mouths are fouled with toxic waste. Now, researchers are stepping up efforts to determine how much damage the plastic could do. Mason and Rios are working with the 5 Gyres Institute, a nonprofit group based in Los Angeles that has

called attention to sprawling masses of plastic in the oceans.

While Mason searches Lake Michigan for more plastic, Rios is poking through fish innards for plastic fragments. In ocean environments, fish and birds are known to feed on microplastics, apparently mistaking them for fish eggs.

A more complicated question is whether the particles are soaking up toxins in the water, potentially contaminating fish that eat them — and sending them up the food chain. □

Gulf of Mexico 'dead zone' not near record

JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — This year's "dead zone" at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, caused largely by fertilizer runoff from U.S. farms, is bigger than average but doesn't approach record size as scientists had predicted, according to findings released Monday.

The area of low oxygen covers 5,840 square miles (15,125 sq. kilometers) of the Gulf floor, said scientists led by Nancy Rabalais of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.

The low oxygen kills animals that cannot swim away, such as worms, starfish, small burrowing shrimp and some crabs, hurting food quality for fish that return when oxygen levels rise,

she wrote in her annual report.

The dead zone is caused when nitrogen and phosphorus, much of it from farm fertilizer in the 41-state Mississippi River basin, feed algae blooms at the river's mouth. Algae and the protozoa that eat them die and fall to the bottom, where their decomposition uses up oxygen.

Scientists from Louisiana State University and the University of Michigan had expected a wet spring to bring more nutrients than usual down the Mississippi River, leading to a dead zone that could have approached or exceeded the largest ever. The largest dead zone on record was in 2002, when it spread across 8,481 square miles

(21,900 sq. kilometers) of the Gulf.

The Mississippi River Collaborative, a partnership of environmental organizations and legal centers in states along the Mississippi River, sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last year, calling for it to set standards for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution and make states meet them.

"EPA told states to develop numeric nitrogen and phosphorus limits 15 years ago," Cynthia Sarthou, executive director for the Gulf Restoration Network, a coalition member, said in a news release. "EPA has spent the decade and a half since backing off hard deadline after hard deadline for reducing dead zone-causing pollution." □

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Milton Greene slides of Marilyn, others snag \$1.8M



In this photo provided by Profiles in History, July 9, 2013, is a 1955 portrait of actress Marilyn Monroe by fashion and celebrity photographer Milton H. Greene.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tens of thousands of negatives of Marilyn Monroe and other stars by celebrity photographer Milton Greene have sold at auction for \$1.8 million. The archive includes 3,700 negatives and slides of Marilyn Monroe. All the material was sold with copyright.

Profiles in History auction house says the highlights included a collection of color transparencies of the Hollywood siren with Laurence Olivier from the movie "The

Prince and the Showgirl." It sold for \$42,000.

A group of transparencies of Monroe from the movie "Bus Stop" fetched \$39,000. The seller is a U.S. photography collector who purchased the archive 10 years ago. The items came from the Greene estate. The buyers weren't identified.

Like his contemporaries Irving Penn and Richard Avedon, Greene is credited with elevating fashion photography to fine art. □

Restored Star Trek ship Galileo arrives in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Star Trek enthusiasts of all kinds arrived in Houston on Wednesday for the momentous unveiling of the shuttlecraft that crash-landed on a hostile planet in the 1967 "Star Trek" episode called "The Galileo Seven."

Adam Schneider paid \$61,000 for the battered shuttlecraft in an auction and spent about a year restoring the fiberglass ship and making it look nearly as it did on that episode. He flew in from New York to mark the unveiling at the Space Center Houston, where it will be permanently displayed not far from NASA's Mission Control.

"Unbelievably proud," he

said, beaming alongside the white shuttle. "Like sending your kid to college and having them get a job to build a successful life, because this was under our care for a year and we grew very attached."

Some who came to see the unveiling wore Scotty's Repair Shop T-shirts, others full-blown spandex outfits worn by Mr. Spock and his peers in the famous TV show and movies that have garnered a following so large and so devoted it is almost cult-like.

When the smoke cleared and the music died down, Candy Torres could no longer contain herself. Looking at the shiny, restored Star Trek Galileo shuttle-

Lohan completes rehab stint, more therapy ordered

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan has completed her court-ordered stay in a rehabilitation facility and must continue therapy into early 2015, a judge said Wednesday.

The "Liz & Dick" star must meet with a therapist at least three times a week for the next 18 months, Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney said, following the treatment recommendation of Richard Taite, founder and CEO of Cliffside Malibu, the rehab facility where Lohan was recently residing.

Taite wrote Dabney a letter stating the need for Lohan to remain in therapy.

"Our entire clinical team is in unanimous agreement that if these sessions are not required by the court and attendance verified once a month to ensure accountability, it is a setup for almost certain failure," Taite wrote.

If the actress is traveling, she can meet with her therapist via the videoconferencing software Skype, the judge said.

Lohan, 27, was not present at the hearing meant to update Dabney on her



In this Oct. 11, 2012 file photo, Lindsay Lohan attends the Mr. Pink Ginseng launch party at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

progress.

The actress remains on probation for a pair of cases involving the theft of a necklace and lying to police about driving when her sports car slammed into a dump truck on Pacific Coast Highway in June 2012.

Taite praised Lohan's progress in recent months.

"We couldn't be happier with the progress Ms. Lohan has made in building a solid foundation from which to continue the excellent work she has begun here at

Cliffside Malibu," he wrote. Lohan started her treatment at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage and was later transferred to Cliffside Malibu. Her next court date is scheduled for November 2014.

The actress' latest film, "The Canyons" will have a limited theatrical release in New York and Los Angeles in August. She has signed a deal on OWN to appear in an eight-part series based on her life and will be interviewed by Oprah Winfrey in August. □



The restored space shuttle Galileo from the 1960's television show Star Trek is unveiled at Space Center Houston Wednesday, July 31, 2013, in Houston.

Associated Press

craft in all its TV glory, she broke down.

"All of a sudden I was just crying. I was in tears. I couldn't believe it," Torres said, donning a brown tourist engineer hat and a NASA mission operations

shirt. "It meant something."

Jeff Langston, 45, drove more than 160 miles (260 kilometers) from Austin with his two sons to see the moment. "It was very exciting," Neo said, bouncing on his feet. "When they

filmed Star Trek the Galileo was cool and now that they remade it, it's cool to see a new version of the Galileo.

And it's beautiful."

Richard Allen, the space center's 63-year-old CEO and president, hopes that just as the Star Trek movies and others like it inspired Torres to pursue a career in science and engineering, that today's generation will be similarly inspired when they see the Galileo.

"It's fantastic," he said of the shuttlecraft.

"We're all about exciting and educating ... and I'm convinced that space is one of the best, if not the best, way of creating inquiry in young minds." □

'Masters of Sex' takes explicit look at sexuality

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California

(AP) — There's so much sex depicted on a new cable TV series about researchers Masters and Johnson that filming it became ho-hum for star Michael Sheen.

"I never thought I would get used to having a naked woman in front of me masturbating ... but I actually broke that barrier on the show," Sheen, who plays researcher William Masters, said Tuesday.

He plays opposite Lizzy Caplan as co-researcher and future wife Virginia Johnson in Showtime's "Masters of Sex," an explicit depiction of the pair and their groundbreaking mid-20th century scientific investigation of human sexuality.

The series, based on Thomas Maier's 2009 nonfiction book, debuts Sept. 29 on the premium cable TV channel Showtime. Johnson died last week at age 88 in St. Louis. She was divorced from Masters, who died in 2001.

Sheen, whose film credits include "The Queen," said

the story remains pertinent because the same "problems of intimacy" and

making connections with people apply today.

During a Q&A session with

the Television Critics Association, the difficulty of talking about sex publicly became apparent.

One reporter asked the cast and producers how the series can include humor without appearing to titter at sexuality.

"We just had a slightly inappropriate look into your sex life. We all thank you for that," Sheen replied, drolly.

Caplan (TV's "True Blood," "New Girl") said the researchers' work at Washington University in St. Louis and later at their own institute was especially important for women, allowing them

to understand and accept their sexuality as healthy.

"Before Masters and Johnson, no one was telling women that. It was always their own fault," Caplan said. "And that's some (baloney)."

The series embellished some characters but "stuck to the facts very carefully,"

said producer Michelle Ashford. "Certainly (with) the research, we fudged none of that."

Masters and Johnson became big celebrities who were the topic of late-night talk show hosts and on the cover of news magazines. Their work drew some criticism, especially in an era when sex was seldom discussed in public and certainly not in detail.

The cast, asked whether filming sex scenes proved embarrassing, said there was a painstaking effort to protect the actors by making the production "comfortable and safe," Sheen said.

Cast member Teddy Sears recalled director John Madden saying, "I want to protect your modesty," then mimicked the British Madden giving a stage direction: "Grab her bum." Doing repeated takes of one clinical sex scene turned out to be "decidedly unsexy after a while," Sears said.

The panelists, including executive producer Sarah Timberman, said they were not in touch with Johnson because they'd wanted to respect her privacy.

"She wanted to live out the last few years of her life not in the limelight," Caplan said.

Johnson "bared her soul in the book (by Maier) and then was done with that," said producer Ashford. □



Cast members Michael Sheen, left, and Lizzy Caplan participate in "Masters of Sex" panel at the Showtime Summer TCA on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Denzel Washington is returning to Broadway

JOHN CARUCCI,
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Denzel Washington is returning to Broadway — but he won't be singing.

Standing with his wife, Pauletta Pearson, on the red carpet Monday at the premiere of his new movie, "2 Guns," the Oscar- and Tony-winning actor said he's set to appear in a revival of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun."

"We start previews in March," he said.

Washington then explained his motivation for returning to the stage.

"I'm trying to keep up with my wife. My wife has been doing a lot more theater than me," he said as Pearson smiled.

Washington said they were heading to North Carolina



Actor Denzel Washington, right, attends the premiere of "Two Guns" with his wife actress Pauletta Washington, left, on Monday, July 29, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

for the National Black Theatre Festival, where Pearson is starring in the award-winning "Power Play."

"I'm looking forward to one day singing," Washington said playfully to Pearson's amusement.

"See, I just wanted to get something out of her. She knows I can't sing. But she can sing."

As they walked away, the 58-year-old actor continued: "I can sing. I can sing ... in the shower." □

Associated Press

Liam Neeson spotlights child abuse for UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Liam Neeson is highlighting violence against children in a video to launch a UNICEF initiative on what the actor calls a largely "invisible" global scourge.

The video shows scenes that hint at a child's suffering: A fallen bicycle in an alleyway, a broken glass in a kitchen. Neeson says in the video: "This is a 15-year-old girl being gang raped ... And here a toddler is being hit by his mother for

breaking a glass."

Neeson is the Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the U.N. children's agency. UNICEF says in a statement Wednesday that its initiative "builds on growing popular outrage" over the shooting deaths of 26 children and educators in Newtown, Connecticut, the 2012 shooting of 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai in Pakistan and gang rapes of girls in India and South Africa. □

Going For Bolingbroke



ROSS DOUTHAT

© 2013 New York Times

Before political movements can be understood by others, they need to understand themselves: what they want to be, what they actually are and how they might bridge the gap between aspiration and reality.

Today, the post-George W. Bush, post-Mitt Romney conservative movement is one-third of the way there. Among younger activists and rising politicians, the American right has a plausible theory of what its role in our politics ought to be, and how it might advance the common good. What it lacks, for now, is the self-awareness to see how it falls short of its own ideal, and the creativity necessary to transform its self-conception into victory, governance, results.

The theory goes something like this: American politics is no longer best understood in the left-right terms that defined 20th-century debates. Rather, our landscape looks more like a much earlier phase in democracy's development, when the division that mattered was between outsiders and insiders, the "country party" and the "court party."

These terms emerged in 18th-century Britain, during the rule of Sir Robert Walpole, the island kingdom's first true prime minister. They were coined by his opponents, a circle led by Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, who were both conservative and populist at once: They regarded Walpole's centralization of power as a kind of organized conspiracy, in which the realm's political, business and military interests were colluding against the common good.

Bolingbroke is largely forgotten today, but his skepticism about the ways that money and power intertwine went on to influence the American Revolution and practically every populist movement in our nation's history. And it's his civic republican ideas, repurposed for a new era, that you hear in the rhetoric of new-guard Republican politicians like Rand Paul and Mike Lee, in right-wing critiques of our incestuous "ruling class," and from pundits touting a "libertarian populism" instead.

Theirs is not just the usual conservative critique of big government, though that's obviously part of it. It's a more thoroughgoing attack on the way Americans are ruled today, encompassing Wall Street and corporate America, the media and the national-security state.

As theories go, it's well suited to the times. The story of the last decade in American life is, indeed, a story of consolidation and

self-dealing at the top. There really is a kind of "court party" in American politics, whose shared interests and assumptions - interventionist, corporatist, globalist - have stamped the last two presidencies and shaped just about every major piece of Obama-era legislation. There really is a disconnect between this elite's priorities and those of the country as a whole. There really is a sense in which the ruling class - in Washington, especially - has grown fat at the expense of the nation it governs.

The problem for conservatives isn't their critique of this court party and its works. Rather, it's their failure to understand why many Americans can agree with this critique but still reject the Republican alternative.

They reject it for two reasons. First, while Republicans claim to oppose the ruling class on behalf of the country as a whole, they often seem to be representing an equally narrow set of interest groups - mostly elderly, rural (the GOP is a "country party" in a far too literal sense) and well-off. A party that cuts food stamps while voting for farm subsidies or fixates on upper-bracket tax cuts while wages are stagnating isn't actually offering a libertarian populist alternative to the court party's corrupt bargains. It's just offering a different, more Republican-friendly set of buy-offs.

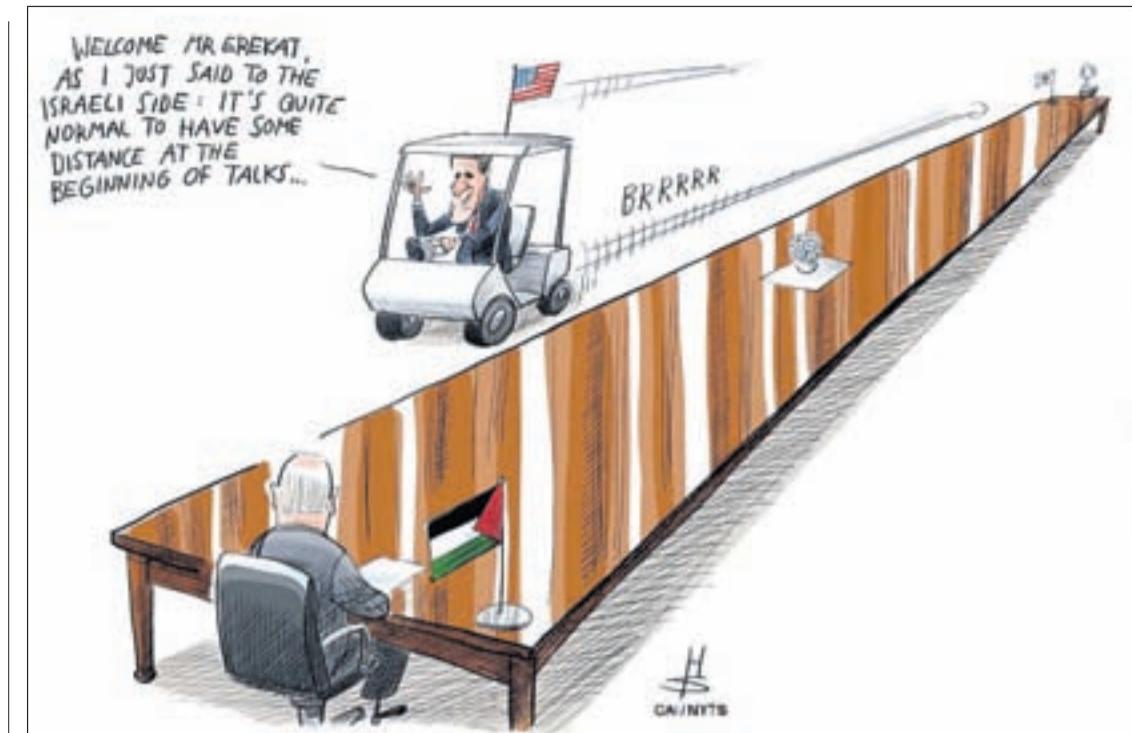
Second, as much as Americans may distrust a cronyist liberalism, they prefer it to a conservatism that doesn't seem interested in governing at all. This explains why Republicans could win the battle for public opinion on President Barack Obama's first-term agenda without persuading the public to actually vote him out of office. The sense that Obama was at least trying to solve problems, whereas the right offered only opposition, was powerful enough to overcome disappointment with the actual results. Both of these problems dog the right's populists today. There might indeed be a "libertarian populist" agenda that could help Republicans woo the middle class - but not if, as in Rand Paul's budget proposals, its centerpiece is just another sweeping tax cut for the rich.

There might be a way to turn Obamacare's unpopularity against Democrats in 2014 - but not if Republican populists shut down the government in a futile attempt to defund it.

To overthrow a flawed ruling class, it isn't enough to know what's gone wrong at the top. You need more self-knowledge, substance and strategic thinking than conservatives have displayed to date.

Here the historical record is instructive. The original "country party" critique of Robert Walpole's government was powerful, resonant and intellectually influential.

But it still wasn't politically successful. Instead, the era as a whole belonged to Walpole and his court - as this one, to date, belongs to Barack Obama. □



I Want To Be A Mayor Too!



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2013 New York Times

As Americans, we've been raised on the notion that any child could dream of becoming president. But when you see how much "fun" Barack Obama and his immediate predecessors have had in that job - and when you look at where the most exciting innovations in governance are happening - how long will it be before our kids, when asked what they want to be when they grow up, answer: "I want to be a mayor." Except in Detroit, mayors today have more fun.

In fact, if you want to be an optimist about America today, stand on your head. The country looks so much better from the bottom up - from its major metropolitan areas - than from the top down. Washington is tied in knots by Republican-led hyperpartisanship, lobbyists and budget constraints. Ditto most state legislatures. So the great laboratories and engines of our economy are now our cities. This is the conclusion of an important new book by the Brookings Institution scholars Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley, entitled: "The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy."

For generations, they write, we held the view that "the feds and states are the adults in the system, setting direction; the cities and the metropolitan areas are the children, waiting for their allowance. The metropolitan revolution is exploding this tired construct. Cities and metropolitan areas are becoming the leaders in the nation: experimenting, tak-

ing risks, making hard choices." We are seeing "the inversion of the hierarchy of power in the United States."

What produced this shift? First, they argue, the Great Recession blew up the deformed growth model we had settled into - one "that exalted consumption over production, speculation over investment, and waste over sustainability." The new growth model, which the most successful cities are practicing, focuses on creating networks that combine skilled laborers and knowledge workers, with universities and technical schools, with quality infrastructure and high-speed Internet, to do manufacturing, innovation, technology development and advanced services - with an eye to exporting all of them. That's how we build a 21st-century middle class. "The best cities now understand that you need to have a sector of your economy that is world class" in order to thrive, the authors argue.

Second, cities know that neither Washington nor state government will save them. "Cities and metropolitan areas are on their own," the authors write. "Mired in partisan division and rancor, the federal government appears incapable of taking bold action to restructure our economy and grapple with changing demography and rising inequality."

Look around and you see cities "doing the hard work of growing our new economy," they said to me in an interview. With federal funding for scientific research uncertain, Michael Bloomberg "has created Applied Sciences campuses in New York City to spur innovation. Voters are putting up tax dollars for large-scale transit investments in Denver and Los Angeles and local leaders are leading the modernization of ports, airports and freight rail in Miami, Chicago, Jacksonville and Dallas." A network of economic development organizations in northeast Ohio is "helping manufacturing firms retool their factories for new demand, using some federal dollars but also sizable investments from philanthro-

pies." And, in Houston, a network of neighborhood centers is connecting new immigrants with low-cost banking, education, child care and health care - while the immigration bill is stalled in Congress.

"Washington is dysfunctional politically, and it is not just a momentary thing," Rahm Emanuel, who gave up being the president's chief of staff to become mayor of Chicago, told me. "We always said that there'd be a day when all that the federal government does is debt service, entitlement payments and defense. Well, folks, that day is here. So, federal support for after-school programs has shrunk. We added to ours, but I had to figure out where to get the money. The federal government is debating what to do with community colleges. We've already converted ours to focus on skills development and career-based education. I worked for two great presidents, but this is the best job I've had in public service."

D's and R's will work together locally, unlike in their statehouse or Congress, say the authors, because how they feel about the place where they live and work "is much stronger than how they feel about their party."

Then there's Detroit. It is "an extreme case," Katz and Bradley explained. It is a perfect storm of municipal mismanagement, auto company mismanagement, major job decentralization and property abandonment. "Other cities face many of these challenges, but none to the same extent," they argued. "Philadelphia has a daunting pension situation, as does Chicago, but both of those cities have things that Detroit lacked for decades: more jobs in their downtown cores and elected leaders who are not waiting for miracles but trying to move more aggressively to grow their economies, increase revenues, and manage debt."

Wish them well. With both D.C. and the states increasingly AWOL, we need cities more than ever to be our engines of smart growth. □

Welcome To Summer Camp

STEVEN KURUTZ

© 2013 New York Times

George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg's beach house has a cantilevered construction, complicated sliding-glass doors made in Germany and a clever push-button dumbwaiter, but the element that best captures its spirit are the playful wood lockers. Lined in a row opposite a wall of bunk beds in a small down-stairs room, the lockers suggest a summer camp for design-minded adults and practically scream "house-guests welcome."

ple, who own three other homes (in Toronto, Miami Beach and the Richard Meier Building in New York), saw a listing for a beach house on the East End of Long Island. Growing up in Canada, they had both been curious about beach resorts like the Hamptons. But when they drove to Amagansett, they found a funky little oceanside community that reminded them of the Venice section of Los Angeles and an even funkier house that Pushelberg described as a suburban-style

"The great thing about designing something for yourself is there is no timetable. You can make it as perfect as you can."

The main living area is a big second-story room with a high ceiling that faces the ocean, with a fireplace at one end and, at the other, a kitchen with custom gray cabinets. The German-engineered sliders, which open onto the deck, are designed to eliminate the need for a corner structural column and allow for an uninterrupted sea-blue horizon.



The ground-floor patio, with its picnic table and colorful blankets at the home of George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg in Amagansett, N.Y., July 21, 2013. The space is intended for grilling and informal meals.

(Eric Striffler/The New York Times)

"That's the exact message we wanted to convey," Yabu said, "that relaxed easiness of the house." Pushelberg added: "When people are there, whether they're in the design cognoscenti or someone's mother, they see the lockers and get it."

Yabu, 60, and Pushelberg, 59, who run the international design firm Yabu Pushelberg, are certainly familiar with the design cognoscenti. Among their many commercial projects have been several for Ian Schrager, including his new London Edition hotel, and they recently worked with Dennis Freedman, the creative director of Barneys New York, to give the retailer's Madison Avenue flagship a face-lift.

Five years ago, the cou-

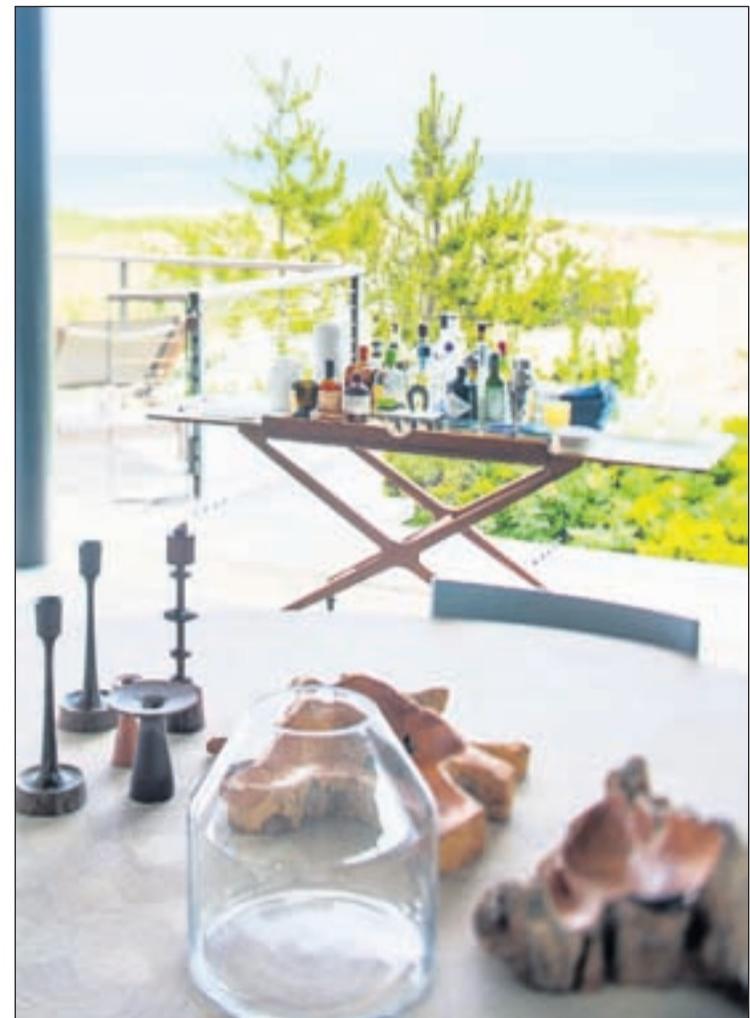
"plastic shingle-eese" with pink bathtubs. Still, the architecture didn't detract from the view, Yabu said. "All we were looking at was the ocean. We didn't even finish the house tour," he said, before making an offer.

The couple bought the house for \$4 million and spent the next two years securing permits to tear it down and build their own \$4 million house amid the rolling sand dunes. The enforced holding period gave them an intimate knowledge of the property (they made regular visits) and the opportunity to work in collaboration with Frederick Stelle, a local architect, at a slower than usual pace, Pushelberg said.

The guest wing, which has its own outside entrance, contains not just the lockers and the bunk beds, but also a TV room, two more bedrooms, three bathrooms and seemingly enough beach towels to supply everyone for a 3-mile stretch of sand. Just how many guests visit in the summer?

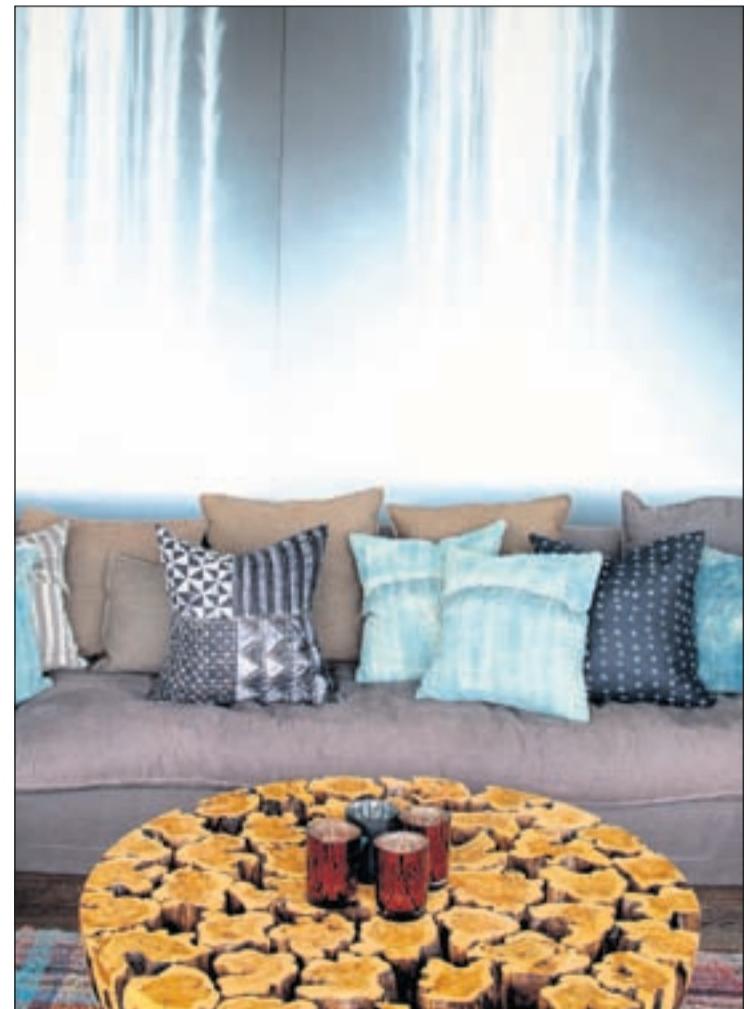
"There are always people at the house," Pushelberg said. "It's on a very casual level. We cook. We play great music."

A typical day, Yabu said, might involve a swim followed by a big home-cooked meal or grilling on the patio. At night, the couple often asks guests to play DJ using the Sonos sound system. They open the sliders to bring in the ocean breeze, and



Sliding-glass doors open to the ocean (above) in the living area at the home of George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg in Amagansett, N.Y., July 21, 2013. The doors open wide to bring in the ocean views and breezes, and the bar trolley is a vintage Italian design. The table in the living room by Jaehyo Lee (below) was made from a jasmine tree, and the Kimono sofa is from Avenue Road.

(Eric Striffler/The New York Times)



impromptu dance parties sometimes break out.

As Pushelberg said: "If you have the right combination of people, it's a good party. But you have to

make it fun, not an obligation."

Yabu added: "Once we set it up for you, the house is easy and self-serve. You're on your own." □